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No. 22
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Christmas with the Super Heroes

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SPARKLING
CHRISTMAS
STORIES
OF THE
WORLD'S
GREATEST
HEROES...

Featuring
the JUSTICE LEAGUE
AND THE
TEEN TITANS!



BEST OF DC

Christmas with the Super Heroes

*** Editor: JULIUS SCHWARTZ ***

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A Warner Communications Company

TEEN TITANS



OH, GHOSTS OF
CHRISTMAS PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT
OF POOR ME?

WE WANT YOU TO
UNDO THE WRONGS
YOU'VE DONE, YOU OLD
SKINFINT, OR WE'LL
HAUNT YOU OUT OF
YOUR GROTTY MIND!

ART BY:
NICK CARDY

SCRIPT BY:
BOB HANEY

FANATIC ONES: CHARLES DICKENS HAS BEEN LONG DEAD--BUT HIS GREAT BOOKS, HIS FABULOUS CHARACTERS, LIVE ON! IN FACT, HIS STORIES ARE SO ALIVE TODAY THAT THEY KEEP ON HAPPENING! SO JOIN YOU HERE THAT FANTASTIC FOURSOME, YE TEEN TITANS, FOR A HOLIDAY "HAPPENING" INSPIRED BY THE IMMORTAL PAGES OF THE GREATEST YULETIDE TALE OF THEM ALL! YES, DECK YOURSELVES WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY, AND PARK UNDER THE MISTLETOE MOST MARVELOUS, AS WE BEGIN...

The TT's Swingin' Christmas Carol!

'T WAS TWO NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
AND ON THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS...

MR. SCROUNGE
COULDN'T
WE TURN
UP THE
H-HEAT
A LI-LITT-
LITTLE?
I CAN
HARDLY
WORK!

BAH! HUMBUG.
RATCHET! THIS
TEMPERATURE
IS STIMULATING--
KEEPS YOUR
MIND CLEAR
AND ON YOUR
WORK, MY
GOOD
FELLOW!



YES, SIR, MR. SCROUNGE... I'M TRYING
TO FINISH UP SO I CAN HAVE
CHRISTMAS DAY OFF!

YOU WANT CHRISTMAS DAY
OFF? HUMBUG... YOU'LL
ONLY WASTE YOUR TIME--
AND THE GOOD MONEY.
I PAY YOU!

BUT... BUT, SIR... EVERY-
ONE CELEBRATES
CHRISTMAS!

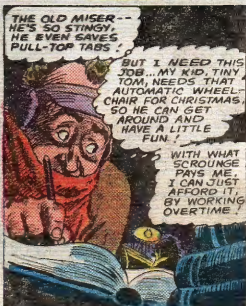
I DON'T! IT'S ALL... HUMBUG!
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU CAN
HAVE IT OFF, RATCHET,
IF YOU KEEP AT THOSE
BOOKS!



THE OLD MISER--
HE'S SO STINGY,
HE EVEN SAVES
PULL-TOP TABS!

BUT I NEED THIS
JOB... MY KID, TINY
TOM, NEEDS THAT
AUTOMATIC WHEEL-
CHAIR FOR CHRISTMAS,
SO HE CAN GET
AROUND AND
HAVE A LITTLE
FUN!

WITH WHAT
SCROUNGE
PAYS ME,
I CAN JUST
AFFORD IT,
BY WORKING
OVERTIME!



NOT LONG AFTER...

YES, RATCHET, YOU HEARD ME... YOU CAN LEAVE EARLY! GO, QUICKLY-- DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME!

SCROUNGE MUST WANT ME AWAY FROM HERE PRETTY BADLY, TO LET ME GO HOME NOW!

THAT TRUCK AND THOSE TWO CROOKED-LOOKING CHARACTERS... HE DOESN'T WANT ME AROUND WHEN HE DEALS WITH THEM! SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON HERE!

WHY... UH... THANK YOU, SIR!

BUT AFTER BOB RATCHET LEAVES THE JUNK-O RAMM...

THINK I'LL PAY HIM--OFFICE A VISIT TO DAD-- WHILE HE'S AT WORK--IF NASTY OLD SCROUNGE WILL LET ME!

HMM--OFFICE LOOKS EMPTY... MAYBE THEY'RE AROUND BACK IN THE MAIN JUNKYARD!

MOMENTS LATER...

AAA, BOYS--GIVE ME THAT LONG GREEN...SUCH A SWEET FEEL IT HAS!

MR.BIG SAYS BE READY FOR ANOTHER DELIVERY IN A DAY OR SO!

I'M ALWAYS READY, BOYS! AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU DO WITH THIS JUNK AFTER I LEAVE AT NIGHT! THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS...MAKING MONEY IS MY BUSINESS!

SO LONG, SCROUNGE --AND... MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS? HUMBUG! GOOD NIGHT, BOYS!

WHEW!! SOMETHING REAL WEIRD ABOUT ALL THIS...I BETTER KEEP WATCHING!

3

AFTER EBENEZER SCROUNGE LEAVES...

NOW TO TURN ON THIS GIZMO AND PULL THE BIG SWITCHEROO!

EVERYTIME I SEE IT, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! MR. BIG SURE HAS A GOOD THING GOING HERE...

YEAH... AND USING SCROUNGE'S LAYOUT HERE AS A COVER IS FOOLPROOF, TOO! THAT OLD BUZZARD WILL DO ANYTHING FOR A BUCK!

... IMPORTING "JUNK" FROM OVERSEAS AND THEN TURNING IT BACK INTO BRAND-NEW EXPENSIVE STUFF THAT HE CAN SELL AT BIG PROFITS, WITHOUT PAYING ANY DUTY! IT'S FOOLPROOF!

BUT WHEN TINY TOM DOES TELL BOB RATCHET OF WHAT HE'S SEEN AT THE JUNKYARD...

SHORTLY AFTER, IN SCROUNGE'S OLD RUN-DOWN MANSION...

WOW! THEY'RE SMUGGLERS-- AND DAD'S BOSS, MR. SCROUNGE, IS HELPING THEM!

I GOTTA TELL DAD-- NOW!

SCROUNGE MIXED UP IN A CROOKED RACKET? THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE LET ME GO EARLY!

YOU'D BETTER GO TO THE POLICE, DAD!

WE'LL... UH... I THINK, TOMMY, IT'S BETTER IF I TALK TO MR. SCROUNGE FIRST-- GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!

WHAT?? YOU ACCUSE ME OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES? YOU'RE WRONG, RATCHET!

I SIMPLY RENT MY JUNKYARD TO HARRUMPH! BUSINESSMEN! WHAT THEY DO THERE IS THEIR BUSINESS!

BUT, SIR... IT'S ILLEGAL BUSINESS! WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE!

NO! IT'S NONE OF YOUR AFFAIR, RATCHET! IF YOU UTTER ONE WORD TO ANYONE, YOU'RE FIRED! AND I THINK YOU'D BETTER WORK CHRISTMAS DAY, AFTER ALL... SO I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU!

SOON...

I-- I'M SORRY, SON... I CAN'T RISK LOSING MY JOB!

I DO, DAD... DON'T FEEL BADLY--!

HOW COULD I TAKE CARE OF YOU? HOW COULD I BUY THAT ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR FOR YOU? I PROMISED YOUR MOM BEFORE SHE DIED... PLEASE TOMMY, PLEASE UNDERSTAND...

POOR DAD... MR. SCROUNGE HAS HIM UNDER HIS STINGY THUMB--! I NEED HELP-- AND I KNOW JUST WHO TO GET IT FROM!

BUT... BUT... MR. SCROUNGE... I... UHH...

NOT LONG AFTER, OUTSIDE JUNK-O-RAMA, FOUR FAMED FIGURES WATCH QUIETLY WITH TINY TOM RATCHET.

...AND THAT'S MY COMPLETE STORY, TEEN TITANS! YOU JUST GOTTA HELP ME... HELP MY POOR DAD...

THAT IS QUITE A STORY... A SMUGGLING RACKET TO TURN JUNK INTO VALUABLE GOODS-- USING THAT JUNKYARD AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS!

HEY, HERE COMES A TRUCK...

IT'S THOSE SAME HOODS, MAKING ANOTHER DELIVERY!

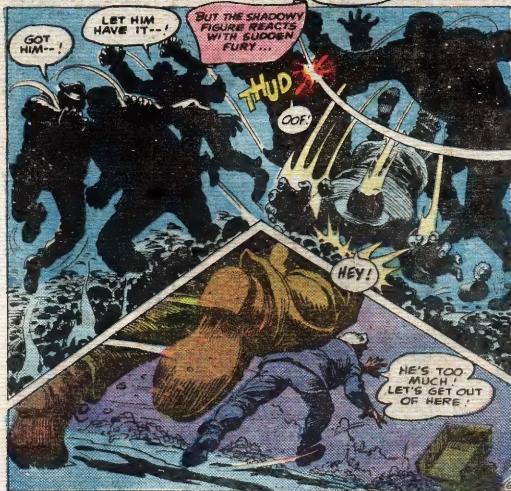
PERFECT! THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO CHECK OUT THE WHOLE SET-UP!

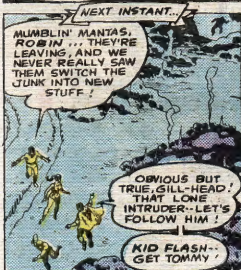
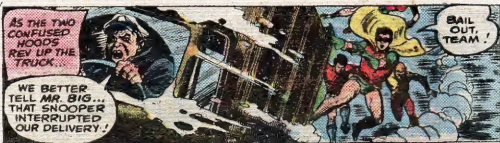
TOMMY-- YOU WAIT HERE!

OKAY, TEAM-- LET'S MAKE LIKE JUNK--

PRIVATE
KEEP OUT
E. SCROUNGE, PROP.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...







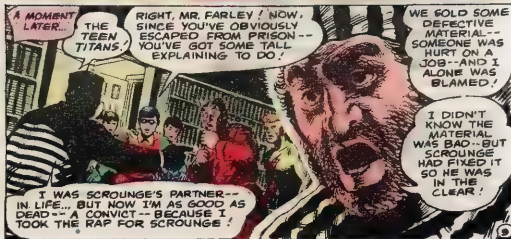
The Teen Titans' Christmas Carol!

CHAPTER 2

EBENEZER SCROUNGE, MISER, FIRST CLASS, HAS JUST OPENED THE DOOR TO RECEIVE THE FRIENDLY GREETING OF HIS OLD PARTNER, **JACOB FARLEY**, AN ESCAPED CONVICT. WATCHING THIS TENDER REUNION ARE...THE TEEN TITANS AND TINY TOM!



VIBRATING RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL, THE TEEN SPEEDSTER SPINS LIKE A DERVISH...



LIES! I DIDN'T KNOW THE MATERIAL WAS BAD, EITHER-- BUT ONCE IT HAPPENED, I PROTECTED MYSELF! WHY SHOULD BOTH OF US GO TO PRISON FOR ONE MISTAKE?

YOU CONIVING, HEARTLESS...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! I'M CALLING THE POLICE TO COME FOR FARLEY--AND TESS YOU TITANS OUT OF MY HOUSE!

MUMBLIN' MANTAS! SHOULDN'T WE STOP HIM?

HOLD IT, GANG-- WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE! HE'S RIGHT-- HOW CAN WE? FARLEY'S A FUGITIVE, AND WE'RE TRESPASSERS

HOLA! SPEAKING OF FARLEY-- WHERE IS HE?

HE WENT OUT THAT WINDOW!

COME ON, TITANS! BUG OUT--!

HE'S GONE... VANISHED!

HOWLING WOLF-FISH, WHAT A WHACKO TWIST!

FARLEY'S STORY, ROBIN... DO YOU BELIEVE HIM--OR THAT NASTY OLD SCROUNGE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT HIS "VISIT" HERE TONIGHT GIVES ME A GREAT IDEA!

HAVEN'T YOU CHARACTERS BEGUN TO DIG IT YET? EBENEZER SCROUNGE... JACOB FARLEY... TINY TOM HERE...?

YOW!... I DIG! SCROOGE... JACOB MARLEY... TINY TIM... IT'S JUST LIKE DICKENS' "A CHRISTMAS CAROL!"

MERCIFUL MINERVA-- IT IS!

WELL, I'LL BE...

AND WE THOUGHT IT COULDN'T HAPPEN! IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING-- RIGHT NOW!

REMEMBER HOW THE STORY WENT--? MAYBE WE CAN TAKE A PAGE FROM MR. CHARLES DICKENS, AND GET SCROUNGE TO CHANGE HIS MISERABLE WAYS!

LISTEN-- THIS IS MY PLAN...

THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHICH IS THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

SO LONG, TOMMY BOY-- TIME FOR ME TO GO TO WORK! THAT ROTTEN SCROUNGE, MAKING ME WORK TOMORROW, TOO-- ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

I... I HATE THAT OLD TYRANT!

BUT, DAD-- YOU SHOULDN'T HATE SCROUNGE...

HE'S A PATHETIC MAN-- AN UNHAPPY OLD GUY! I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM... REALLY I DO!

YOU'RE RIGHT, TOMMY! YOU'RE THE GREATEST, NICEST KID IN THE WORLD-- AND I'M LUCKY TO BE YOUR DAD!

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR!

IN A WHILE, CROCODILE!

SOON, IN THE OFFICE OF JUNK-O-RAMA...

FASTER, RATCHET-- YOU'RE DAWDLING... WASTING TIME AND MONEY!

BUT, MR. SCROUNGE, SIR, MY FINGERS ARE SO COLD. I CAN HARDLY WRITE!

HUMBUG! YOU'RE LAZY-- AFRAID OF HARD WORK!

MANY LONG, HARD HOURS LATER, AS CHRISTMAS EVE ARRIVES...

WELL, GOOD-NIGHT, SIR... AND MERRY CHRISTMAS, ANYWAY!

HUMBUG, RATCHET! GO-- AND DON'T FORGET TO BE HERE TOMORROW!

MUST GET HIM OUT OF HERE... ANOTHER DELIVERY MAY ARRIVE ANY MOMENT!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S GONE...
THAT SPIRIT!
A CHANCE FOR
ME TO ESCAPE--
REACH HOME
AND SAFETY.

BUT AS THE PROPRIETOR OF
JUNK-O-RAMA FLEES
THROUGH HIS DOMAIN OF
SCRAP AND DEBRIS...

YIIIIKES...
ANOTHER
SPIRIT!
WHO--
WHO ARE
YOU?

THE GHOST OF
CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
I'M HERE TO SHOW
YOU HOW YOUR
STINGINESS HURTS
OTHERS, EBENEZER
SCROUNGE!

WHO...
WHAT DO
YOU POINT
AT, SPIRIT?

WHY, IT'S
BOB
RATCHET!!
BUT... I
SENT HIM
HOME!

HE CAN'T GO HOME
YET, SCROUNGE!
YOU PAY HIM SO
LITTLE, HE MUST
SEARCH FOR JUNK
TO FIX HIS
CRIPPLED SON'S
WHEELCHAIR!

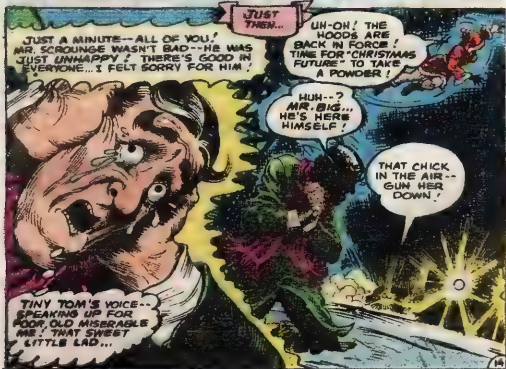
TINY TOM--?
IT'S NOT MY
FAULT THE
BOY CAN'T
WALK!
I... I...

IT'S YOUR FAULT HIS
FATHER MUST WORK EVEN
ON CHRISTMAS DAY--AND
CAN'T AFFORD THE NEW
ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR SO
TOM CAN MOVE ABOUT LIKE
OTHER CHILDREN!

YOU HAD BETTER
CHANGE YOUR WAYS,
SCROUNGE--BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!

PLEASE, MR.
SPIRIT... I'M
JUST A HARMLESS
OLD MAN! I
NEVER MEANT TO
HURT ANYONE...
DON'T HARM ME...

AND WHAT ABOUT
YOUR PARTNER, JACOB
FARLEY, TAKING ALL
THE BLAME FOR YOU?





LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE REALLY HAPPENING LIKE CRAZY NOW--AND THE TEEN TITANS' CHRISTMAS HAPPENING CONTINUES WILDER THAN NEW YEAR'S EVE--ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING.

The *Tit* Swinger Christmas Carol!

CHAPTER 3

CHRISTMAS EVE...SNOW SOFTLY FALLING...FESTIVE LIGHTS TWINKLING! PEACE ON EARTH--GOODWILL TO MEN! YES, SILENT NIGHT, JOYFUL TIME, AND IN THE JUNK-O-RAMA OF EBENEZER SCROUNGE, NOTHING IS HEARD BUT THE SOUNDS OF GUNS, FISTS AND GRUNTS!



BUT AS WONDER GIRL IS PULLED TO SAFETY BY HER TEAMMATES...



HOLY FLATIRONS! SHE'S BEING DROPPED INTO THE CAR CRUSHER!

AN INSTANT LATER, THE GIRL FROM PARADISE ISLAND LIES BETWEEN THE FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL CRUSHING BLOCKS.



ONH...WHERE AM I? GREAT HERA... ANOTHER MOMENT AND I'LL BE A DEAD AMAZON!

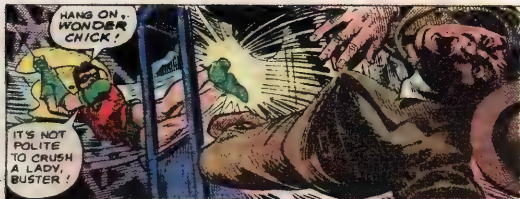
AS THE BLOCKBUSTER POWER OF THE CAR-COMPACTER HITS THE GORGEOUS TITANESS...



SUFFERING STICKLEBACKS! THEY'RE YANKING MISS PONYTAIL OUT OF OUR EVER-LOVIN' HANDS!

HER BRACELETS...THEY'RE BEING MAGNETIZED!

MERCIFUL MINERVA!... GIVE ME STRENGTH!

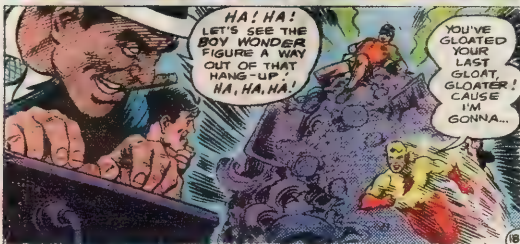
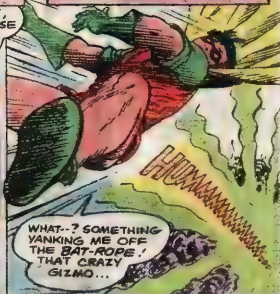
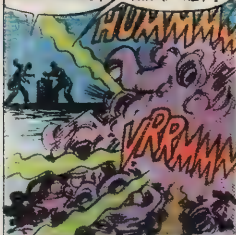


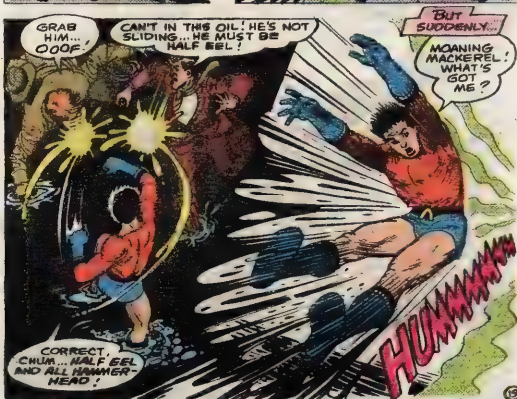
THEN, AS ROBIN QUICKLY SWITCHES OFF THE CRUSHER'S POWER...

AS THE BIZARRE ANTI-BURGLAR DEVICE GOES INTO ACTION...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MR. BIG? THAT'S MY TRAP FOR CATCHING TRESPASSERS!

I'M ACTIVATIN' IT, SCROUNGE... THOSE TITANS ARE TRESPASSERS, AIN'T THEY?





NOW, AS THE JUNK TREE CLAIMS
ANOTHER TITAN...

HOLA!
THE BOYS--
PRISONERS
ON THAT
CRAZY
THING!

I'LL TEAR
IT APART
WITH MY..

EEEEK!
IT HAS
ME, TOO!

THERE THEY
ARE, SCROUNGE--
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS!
HA! HA! HA!

YOU FINK!
I'LL MAKE YOU
FREE THE
TITANS!

MY
WHEEL-
CHAIR!

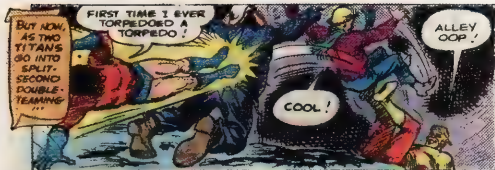
WHY,
YOU
LITTLE..

BOYS,
FIX
THIS
KID!

NO!
DON'T!

ONE MORE
PIECE OF JUNK
IN THIS PLACE
WON'T MATTER,
HUH, BOSS?





THEN WHEN MR. BIG'S HOODS SMASHED TINY TOM'S WHEELCHAIR, I SAW RED... I BECAME A CHANGED MAN... TINY TOM... WHO HAD DEFENDED A MISERABLE SKIN-FLINT LIKE ME...

AND I'M GOING TO REMAIN A CHANGED MAN... YOUR DAD WON'T HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW, TOMMY--AND HE GETS A NICE FAT RAISE!

AS FOR MY OLD PARTNER, FARLEY, I'LL DO MY BEST TO GET HIS SENTENCE CHANGED!

AND SO YOUR DAD WON'T HAVE TO SPEND HIS HARD-EARNED MONEY, I'LL USE MR. BIG'S SECRET JUNK TRANSFORMER TO MAKE YOUR OLD WHEELCHAIR INTO A NICE, NEW ELECTRIC MODEL!

THE GREATEST!

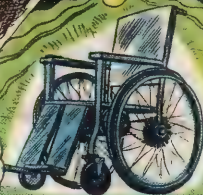
GROOVY!

FINISHED... THE WHOLE GANG!

SCRUNGE-- YOU WENT STRAIGHT... HELPED US... WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU TITANS HAPPENED, BOY WONDER!

YOUR "VISITS", AS THE THREE SPIRITS, MADE ME SEE WHAT I WAS REALLY LIKE-- MADE ME SEE WHAT A MISERABLE OLD MISER I'VE BECOME!



SO NOW, HERE'S OUR TEEN TITANS CHRISTMAS CARD--IN FAB, FOUR-COLOR TITANSOPE! SEND IT TO A FRIEND--HE MIGHT BE AN EMBITTERED SCROUNGE, TOO!

LIKE MY CHRISTMAS OUTFIT, TWINKLETOES! SANTA SCROUNGE REPLACED THE ONE THOSE HOODS, RIPPED!

GOLD-PLATED JUNK, YOUNG MAN! AND, BOB RATCHET, I'M GIVING YOU ANOTHER PRESENT...A NEW HEATER IN THE OFFICE!

HEY, ROBIN-O, HOW COULD ANYONE HAVE AS MARV A CHRISTMAS AS WE ARE?

GEAR, W.G.! I'D HANG OUT MY STOCKING, BUT MAYBE HE'D ONLY FILL IT WITH JUNK!

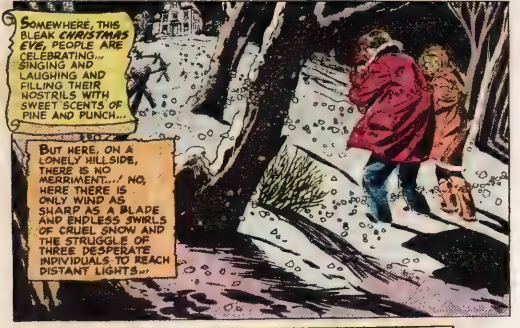
THANK YOU, SIR--YOU'RE REAL WARM-HEARTED... HA! HA!

LET'S LET TINY TOM ANSWER THAT!



CHECK, TITANS! BEST WISHES TO ALL--FOR A SWINGING AND GROOVY NEW YEAR... AND BLESS US EVERYONE!

LIKE THAT GOES DOUBLE FROM EVERYONE AT DC--AND TO ALL TITANS FANS OUT THERE... STAY WITH US, GANG--THE NEW TEEN TITANS WILL MAKE '82 THE MOST EXCITING YEAR EVER!



SOMEWHERE, THIS
BLEAK CHRISTMAS
EVE, PEOPLE ARE
CELEBRATING...
SINGING AND
LAUGHING AND
FILLING THEIR
NOSTRILS WITH
SWEET SCENTS OF
PINE AND PUNCH...

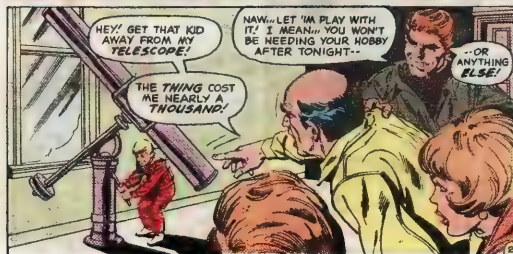
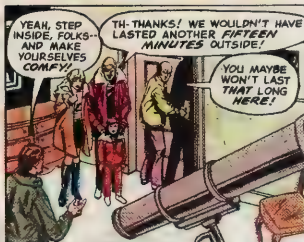
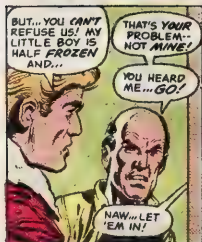
BUT HERE, ON A
LONELY HILLSIDE,
THERE IS NO
MERRIMENT... NO,
HERE THERE IS
ONLY WIND AS
SHARP AS A BLADE
AND ENDLESS SWIRLS
OF CRUEL SNOW AND
THE STRUGGLE OF
THREE DESPERATE
INDIVIDUALS TO REACH
DISTANT LIGHTS...

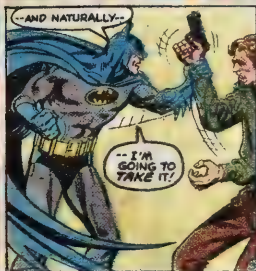
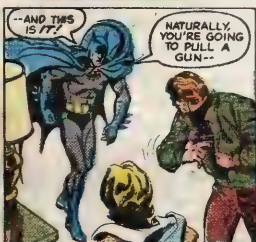


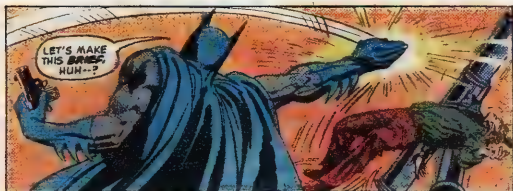
...AND, A MILE AWAY, ON THE FAR SIDE
OF THE RISE, A FOURTH FIGURE BREASTS
THE STORM, HIS GARMENTS STARK
AGAINST THE WHITENESS, THE FACE
BENEATH HIS MASK GRIM--

the
BATMAN
in **Merry
Christmas**

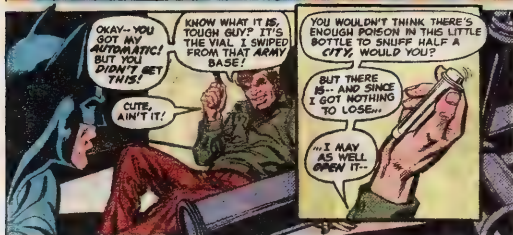
STORY BY:
BENNY O'NEIL
ART BY: IRV NOVICK &
DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ







LET'S MAKE
THIS BRIEF
HUH--?



OKAY-- YOU
GOT MY
AUTOMATIC!
BUT YOU
DIDN'T GET
THIS!

CUTE,
AIN'T IT!

KNOW WHAT IT IS,
TOUGH GUY? IT'S
THE VIAL I SWIPE
FROM THAT ARMY
BASE!

YOU WOULDN'T THINK THERE'S
ENOUGH POISON IN THIS LITTLE
BOTTLE TO SNUFF HALF A
CITY, WOULD YOU?

BUT THERE
IS-- AND SINCE
I GOT NOTHING
TO LOSE--

...I MAY
AS WELL
OPEN IT--



--'COURSE, IF YOU
WERE TO HAND
ME BACK MY
HARDWARE, I
JUST MIGHT
CHANGE MY
MIND!

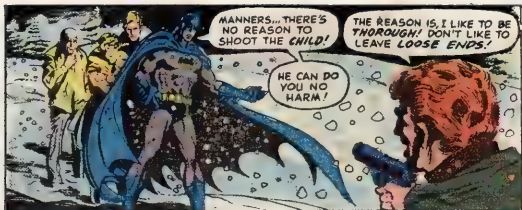
YOU WIN,
MANNERS!

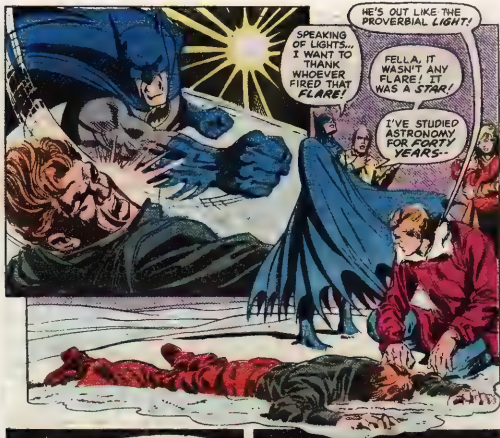


YOU SAVED YOUR
LIFE...FOR A COUPLE
SECONDS, ANYHOW!--
YOU REALIZE I CAN'T
LET ANY OF YOU GO
ON BREATHIN'!

OUTSIDE... MARCH!
I PLAN TO HOLE
UP IN THIS DUMP--

--AND I DON'T WANT
IT CLUTTERED WITH DEAD
BODIES!





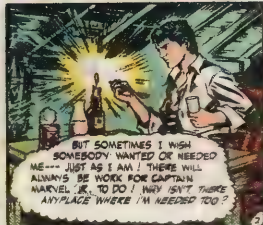
CAPT. MARVEL JR.

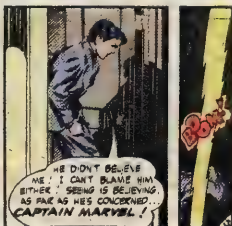
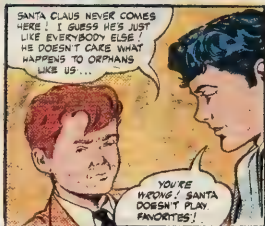
and FREDDY
FREEMAN'S XMAS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
DAY OF GIFTS AND JOLLY,
LIGHT HEARTS AND FRIENDLY
FACES, WHEN THE WHOLE
WORLD IS BRIGHTENED WITH
THE CHEERY GLOW OF KIND-
NESS AND GOOD FELLOW-
SHIP.....

HAVE YOU EVER
WONDERED WHAT KIND
OF A DAY THIS IS FOR
YOUR HERO. CAPTAIN
MARVEL JR. ? WELL, WE
CAN ONLY GIVE YOU PART
OF THE ANSWER FOR
THIS STORY IS CHIEFLY
CONCERNED WITH 'FREDDY
FREEMAN'S CHRISTMAS!'









DA WOB WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME IF I DIDN'T TELL 'EM ABOUT DIS. THEY'LL BE GLAD TO CHIP IN TO BUY PRESENTS!



CAPT. MARVEL JR. COULDN'T DO IT! BUT I DID! SEEMS AS THOUGH I AM NEEDED SOMETIMES, AFTER ALL.

GIVE 'TILL IT HURTS! LET'S SHOW THOSE POOR ORPHAN KIDS WHAT A REAL CHRISTMAS IS LIKE!



SNIFF! WAS AN ORPHAN ONCE MESELF... SNIFF!

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING, HARD JOHN?

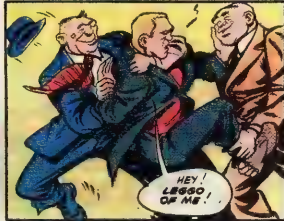


NOT A RED CENT! I DON'T GO FOR THAT SENTIMENTAL DRIP!

YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID, BOYS!



YEAH! WE HEARD HIM!



HEY! LEGGO OF ME!



BLESSED IS HE WHO GIVETH...

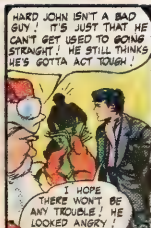
&!!?!



I'LL GET EVEN! YOU CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE THIS!

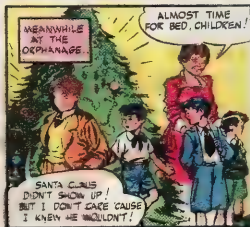
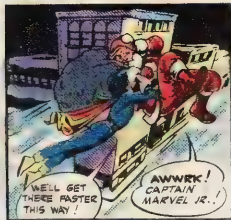
THIS OUGHTA BUY THEM POOR KIDS SOME NICE GIFTS, MUH, FREDDIE?

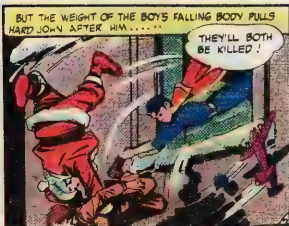
THEY WON'T FORGET THIS CHRISTMAS!



HARD JOHN ISN'T A BAD GUY! IT'S JUST THAT HE CAN'T GET USED TO GOING STRAIGHT! HE STILL THINKS HE'S GOTTA ACT TOUGH!

I HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE! HE LOOKED ANGRY!







BAT-MAN

ROBIN

ART BY:
JERRY ROBINSON

CREATED BY:

BO
KANE

ANY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THIS ADVENTURE AND **DICKENS'** BELOVED MASTERPIECE, "**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**", IS STRICTLY INTENTIONAL... FOR THE GREAT ENGLISH NOVELIST WROTE OF THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD THAT STIRS ANEW IN THE WORLD WHEN THE MYSTICAL STAR OF THE WISE MEN SHINES AT YULETIDE--AND THAT IS THE GUIDING BEACON OF THE MIGHTY **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** AS THEY FARE FORTH ONCE MORE AGAINST EVIL AND INJUSTICE, TO TELL AN OLD STORY IN A STARTLING NEW WAY--

"**A Christmas Peril!**"

CHRISTMAS EVE IN GOTHAM CITY—AND
BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE
DOING THE LAST OF THEIR SHOPPING...

SEVEN-NINETY-
EIGHT FOR
THOSE?
WHEW!

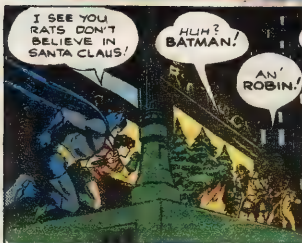
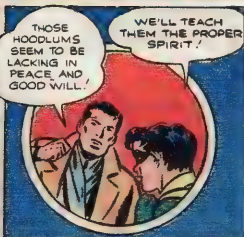
THEY
AREN'T
WORTH
A
DOLLAR!

TAKE 'EM
OR LEAVE
'EM!
THERE'S A
SHORTAGE
THIS YEAR!

I GOT
A RIGHT
TO SELL MY
TREES AT
ANY PRICE
I WANT!

WE SHOULD HAVE
COME HERE
FIRST, BRUCE!

A FINE
TIME TO
SUGGEST
IT!



THEY WANTED ME TO RAISE MY PRICES AND PAY 'EM THE DIFFERENCE

A RACKET, EH? SPEAK UP, WHO'S YOUR BOSS?

H-H-HAPPY H-H-HOGGSBY!



HAPPY HOGGSBY, GANG CHIEFTAIN, HAS FOUND THIS YULETIDE A MERRY ONE. INDEED ...

HAW, HAW! SANTA CLAUS IS SURE PAYIN' OFF THIS YEAR

WHY DIDN'T WE EVER THINK O' DIS BEFORE? DA WHOLE WOILD'S CRAZY ABOUT CHRISSMUS TREES!

EVEN AT FOUR TIMES DA REGULAR PRICE! HA, HA, HA!



UNTIL NOW!

BATMAN!

HAPPY HOGGSBY, I BELIEVE

I'LL FIX 'EM!



WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? HURT SOMEONE?

SMART GUY, HUH?



I'M SMART- AND YOU'RE GOING TO SMART!

WHAT'S THE IDEA, STARTING A FIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE. YOUR GUNMEN STARTED THE FIGHT!



AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, HOGGING THE CHRISTMAS TREE MARKET THROUGH TERRORISM ISN'T RESPECTABLE!

ALL I DO IS MANAGE THE BUSINESS! IF MY-ER- AGENTS USE CRUDE METHODS, CAN I HELP IT?



GET SMART TO YOURSELF, BATMAN! WITH SCRANTON LORING, THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE, BEHIND ME, HOW CAN ANYBODY MAKE TROUBLE FOR ME?

BE PATIENT JUST A LITTLE WHILE! YOU'LL FIND OUT!

YOUNG SCRANTON LORING JUST INHERITED THE FORTUNE OF HIS UNCLE, CALEB LORING, BETTER KNOWN AS OLD SCROOGE!

I NEVER THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD BE MEAN ENOUGH TO TURN CHRISTMAS INTO A RACKET!

THE LORING MANSION - A GLOOMY AND FOR-BIDDING PILE OF MARBLE ...

BUT IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM, A ROTUND LITTLE MAN CHUCKLES WITH HIGH GOOD HUMOR!

THE MAWSTER WILL SEE YOU NOW, MR. LORING!

RIGHT, GULLIVER! WHAT A SURPRISE THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL GET, MEETING ME FOR THE FIRST TIME!

POOR SCRANTON'S LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN DULL WITH MY GRASPING BROTHER CALEB. AS HIS NEW GUARDIAN, I'LL TRY TO MAKE UP FOR IT!

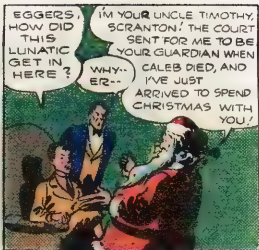
AND HERE IS SCRANTON LORING, THE RICHEST BOY IN THE WORLD!

LET ME SEE ... \$953,000 AT 33 1/3 PERCENT, WITH 10 PERCENT DEDUCTED FOR OPERATING COSTS...



MERRY CHRISTMAS, SCRANTON!

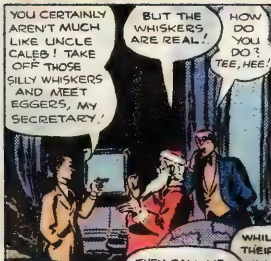
EH? MY WORD!... EGGERS! WHERE ARE YOU?



EGGERS, HOW DID THIS LUNATIC GET IN HERE?

I'M YOUR UNCLE TIMOTHY, SCRANTON! THE COURT SENT FOR ME TO BE YOUR GUARDIAN WHEN CALEB DIED, AND I'VE JUST ARRIVED TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH YOU!

WHY-- ER--



YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T MUCH LIKE UNCLE CALEB! TAKE OFF THOSE SILLY WHISKERS AND MEET EGGERS, MY SECRETARY!

BUT THE WHISKERS ARE REAL!

HOW DO YOU DO? TEE, HEE!



I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY IF I PLAYED SANTA CLAUS. MOST BOYS OF YOUR AGE WOULD BE PLEASED!

MOST BOYS ARE STUPID-- BUT I'M INTERESTED IN THE REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS, LIKE UNCLE CALEB WAS. HE TAUGHT ME ALL I KNOW!

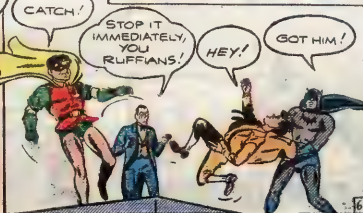
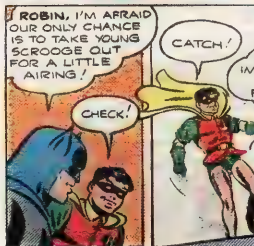
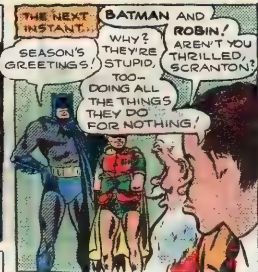
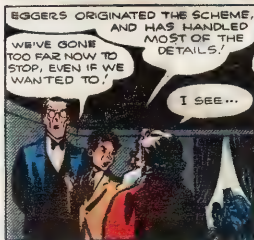
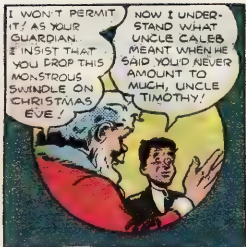


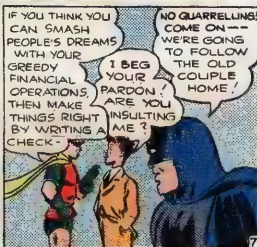
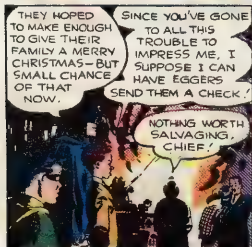
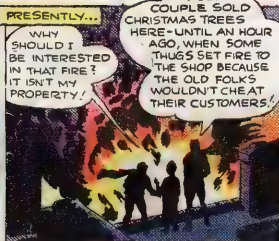
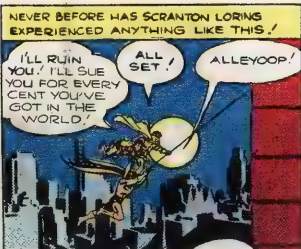
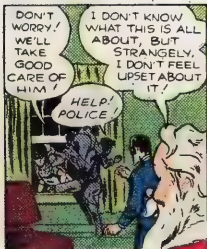
ALL CALEB KNEW WAS HOW TO GET RICH AT OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPENSE. THEY USED TO CALL HIM OLD SCROOGE!

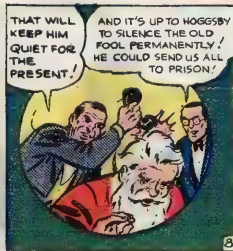
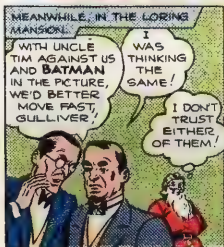
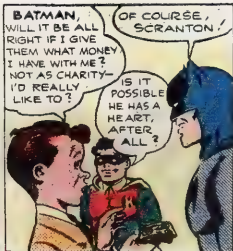
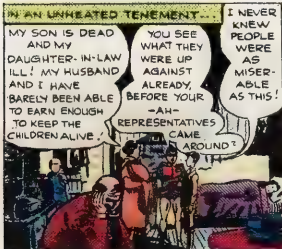
THEY CALL ME YOUNG SCROOGE, AND I'M PROUD OF IT! AS FOR ALL THIS SENTIMENTAL STUFF ABOUT CHRISTMAS--

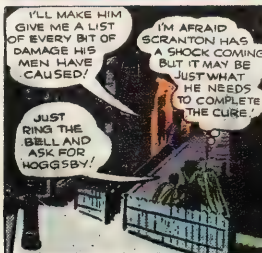
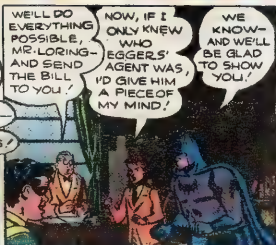
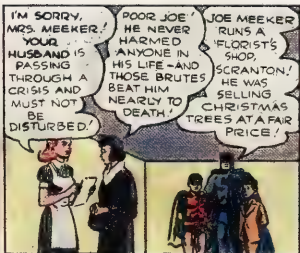
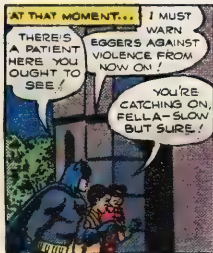
WHILE OTHERS THROW THEIR MONEY AWAY, I'M MAKING A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS BY CORNERING ALL CHRISTMAS TREES IN TOWN AND QUADRUPILING PRICES! SHREWD, EH?

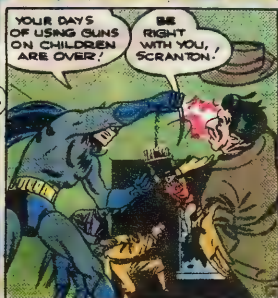
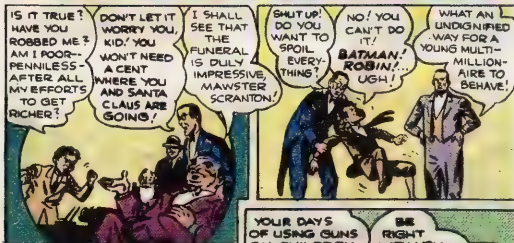
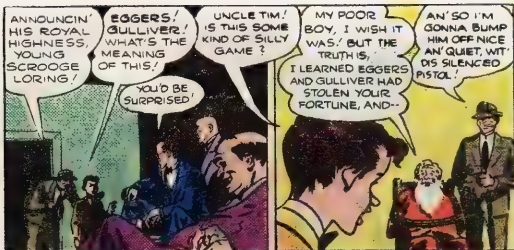
SHREWD! IT'S INCREDIBLE!

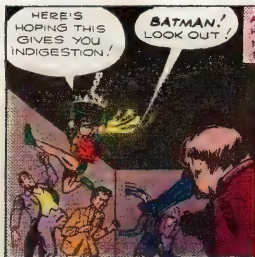








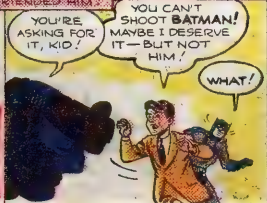




HERE'S HOPING THIS GIVES YOU INDIGESTION!

BATMAN! LOOK OUT!

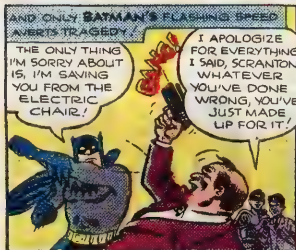
AMAZINGLY, A BOY WHOSE WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN WHOLLY SELF-CENTERED TILL NOW, RISKS DEATH FOR ONE WHO HAS BE- FRIENDED HIM!



YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT, KID!

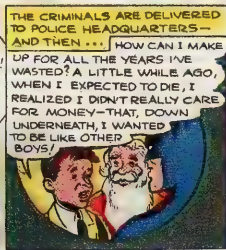
YOU CAN'T SHOOT BATMAN! MAYBE I DESERVE IT - BUT NOT HIM!

WHAT!



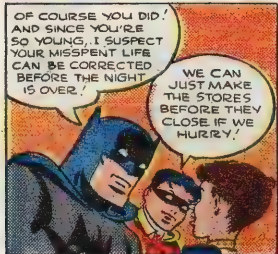
THE ONLY THING I'M SORRY ABOUT IS, I'M SAVING YOU FROM THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

I APOLOGIZE FOR EVERYTHING I SAID, SCRANTON! WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE WRONG, YOU'VE JUST MADE UP FOR IT!



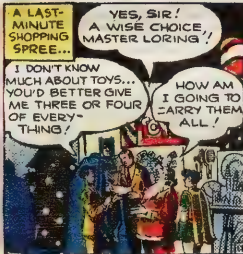
THE CRIMINALS ARE DELIVERED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS - AND THEN ...

HOW CAN I MAKE UP FOR ALL THE YEARS I'VE WASTED? A LITTLE WHILE AGO, WHEN I EXPECTED TO DIE, I REALIZED I DIDN'T REALLY CARE FOR MONEY - THAT, DOWN UNDERNEATH, I WANTED TO BE LIKE OTHER BOYS!



OF COURSE YOU DID! AND SINCE YOU'RE SO YOUNG, I SUSPECT YOUR MISSPENT LIFE CAN BE CORRECTED BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER!

WE CAN JUST MAKE THE STORES BEFORE THEY CLOSE IF WE HURRY!



A LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING SPREE...

YES, SIR! A WISE CHOICE, MASTER LORING!!

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TOYS... YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME THREE OR FOUR OF EVERY-THING!

HOW AM I GOING TO CARRY THEM ALL!

AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES ANNOUNCE
THE BIRTH OF CHRISTMAS DAY...

JINGLE BELLS!
JINGLE BELLS!



WAIT
FOR ME!

LESS
NOISE!
THEY'LL
HEAR
US!

TAKE IT
EASY,
UNCLE
TIM!

AS IF BY A MIRACLE, A DREARY SLUM
DWELLING IS TRANSFORMED INTO A
PLACE OF JOY!

WHY DIDN'T
ANYBODY EVER
TELL ME IT WAS
FUN DOING
THINGS FOR
OTHERS?

GEE, WE WERE
AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T
FIND US THIS YEAR,
SANTA!

BLESS
YOU!

LATER, IN THE HOSPITAL, WHERE
FAMOUS DOCTORS HAVE LED JOE
MEEKER OUT OF THE SHADOW OF
DEATH...

YOU'RE GOING
TO GET WELL,
JOE—AND SANTA
CLAUS HAS
BOUGHT US
A NEW AND
BETTER
STORE!

DON'T BE ASHAMED
OF BAWLING...I
FEEL LIKE IT
MYSELF!

IT'S THE
HAPPIEST
CHRISTMAS
WE'VE EVER
HAD, AFTER
ALL!

AND THE LORING
MANSION IS NO
LONGER GLOOMY!

WE DIDN'T
SAVE A
SINGLE
PRESENT
FOR
SCRANTON!

WHY, I'VE
JUST BEEN
GIVEN THE
FINEST PRE-
SENT ON
EARTH—
SOMETHING
ALL MY
FORTUNE
COULDN'T
BUY!

I'VE LEARNED THE
SECRET OF REAL
HAPPINESS! I'M GO-
ING TO DEVOTE MY
TIME AND MONEY TO
SPREADING CHEER THE
YEAR 'ROUND--AND I
ONLY WISH EVERYONE
COULD KNOW HOW
MUCH FUN
I'M
GOING TO
HAVE!

LET'S TELL
THE WORLD
ABOUT IT--
SHALL WE?

GREETINGS
TO ONE AND
ALL FROM
UNCLE
TIM!

AND FROM
YOUNG SCROOGE
LORING—
WHO WON'T
BE KNOWN BY
THAT NAME
ANY LONGER!

AND A
MERRY CHRIST-
MAS, EVERY-
BODY, FROM
BATMAN-

AND
ROBIN!

End

SOMEWHERE, BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH, THERE IS A PLACE WHERE DREAMS ARE BORN AND MONITORED. THIS IS THE DOMAIN OF A LEGENDARY FIGURE, ETERNAL AND IMMORTAL, WHO SHARES WITH MAN AND BEAST ALL THE SECRETS OF THE AGES.

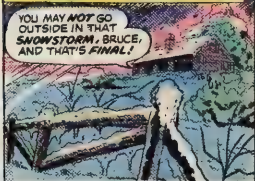
THE SANDMAN • THE SEAL MEN'S WAR ON SANTA CLAUS



SCRIPT: MICHAEL
FLEISHER
ART: JACK KIRBY &
MIKE ROYER
EDITOR: JOE
ORLANDO

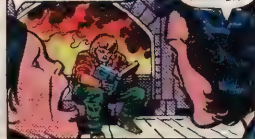
IT IS THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, AND THE FARM WHERE YOUNG JED HAS BEEN LIVING SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS GRANDPA IS BURIED BENEATH A BLANKET OF BLIZZARD-DRIVEN SNOW...

YOU MAY *NOT* GO OUTSIDE IN THAT SNOWSTORM, BRUCE, AND THAT'S FINAL!



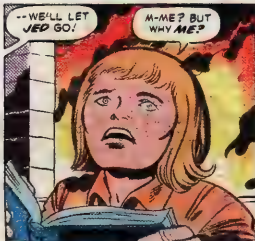
BUT, MOM, YOU GOTTA LET ME GO! THE KIDS AT SCHOOL *DARED* ME TO TRY AND COLLECT A CHRISTMAS FUND CONTRIBUTION FROM THAT OLD MISER *TITUS GOTROX*! I CAN'T GO BACK ON A *DARE*!

I ABSOLUTELY *FORBID* IT, BRUCE, IF SOMEONE *HAS* TO GO OUT IN THIS AWFUL WEATHER--



--WE'LL LET JED GO!

M-ME? BUT WHY *ME*?

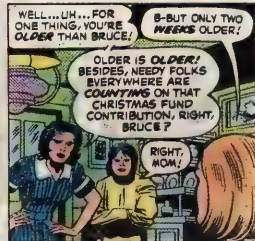


WELL...UH...FOR ONE THING, YOU'RE *OLDER* THAN BRUCE!

B-BUT ONLY TWO *WEEKS* OLDER!

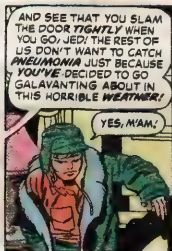
OLDER IS *OLDER*! BESIDES, NEEDY FOLKS EVERYWHERE ARE *COUNTING* ON THAT CHRISTMAS FUND CONTRIBUTION, RIGHT, BRUCE?

RIGHT, MOM!



AND SEE THAT YOU SLAM THE DOOR *TIGHTLY* WHEN YOU GO, JED! THE REST OF US DON'T WANT TO CATCH *PNEUMONIA* JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE DECIDED TO GO GALAVANTING ABOUT IN THIS HORRIBLE *WEATHER*!

YES, M'AM!

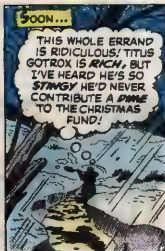


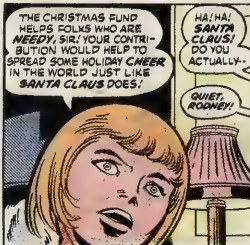
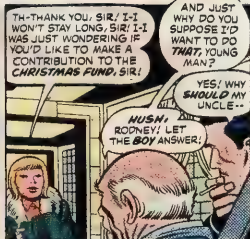
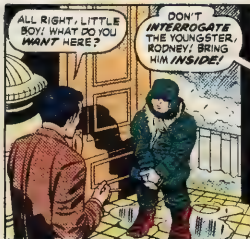
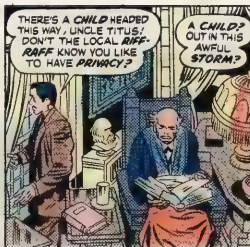
AND SO...

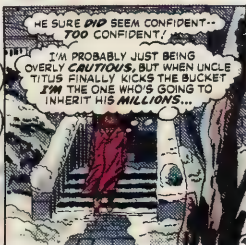
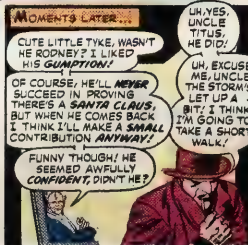
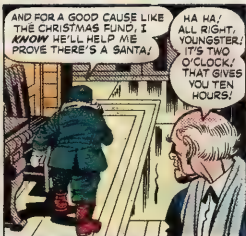
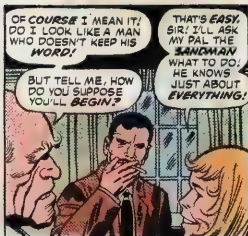


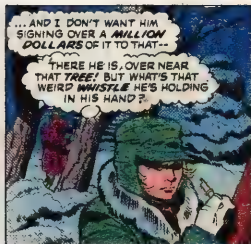
SOON...

THIS WHOLE ERRAND IS RIDICULOUS! *TITUS GOTROX* IS *RICH*, BUT I'VE HEARD HE'S SO *STINGY* HE'D NEVER CONTRIBUTE A *DIME* TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND!









... AND I DON'T WANT HIM
SIGNING OVER A **MILLION**
DOLLARS OF IT TO THAT--

THERE HE IS, OVER NEAR
THAT **TREE!** BUT WHAT'S THAT
WEIRD **WHISTLE** HE'S HOLDING
IN HIS HAND?



WHEN THE **SANDMAN** GAVE ME
THIS **WHISTLE**, HE SAID I COULD
USE IT TO CALL HIM ANYTIME I
NEEDED HIM! GOSH, I HOPE IT
REALLY **WORKS!**



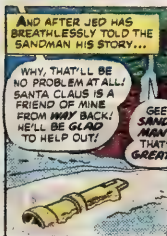
DID YOU CALL
ME, **JED?**

WHA--!? **SANDMAN!**
H-HOW DID YOU GET
HERE SO **FAST?**
WH-WHERE DID YOU
COME FROM?



WHA--!?

HOLD ON, **YOUNGSTER!**
SUPPOSE YOU TRY TO
CALM DOWN AND TELL
ME WHAT THIS IS ALL
ABOUT!



AND AFTER **JED** HAD
BREATHLESSLY TOLD THE
SANDMAN HIS STORY...

WHY, THAT'LL BE
NO PROBLEM AT ALL!
SANTA CLAUS IS A
FRIEND OF MINE
FROM **WAY** BACK!
HE'LL BE **GLAD**
TO HELP OUT!

GEE,
**SAND-
MAN,**
THAT'S
GREAT!



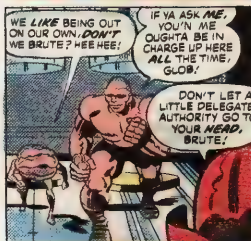
JUST GRAB HOLD OF MY
WAIST! WE'LL MAKE A
QUICK STOPOVER AT THE
DREAM DOME AND THEN
HEAD STRAIGHT FOR
SANTA'S WORKSHOP IN
THE **NORTH POLAR REGION**
OF THE **DREAM STREAM!**

I'M READY,
SANDMAN!

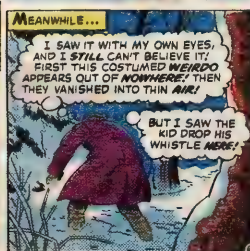
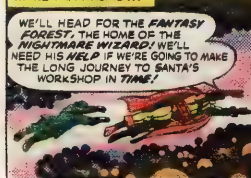


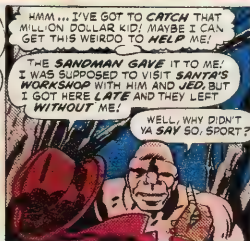
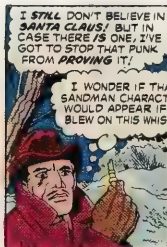
WELL, WHATTAYA **KNOW!**
IF IT AIN'T **LITTLE JED**. MY
NUMBER ONE **FAN!** HI
THERE, **SPORT!**

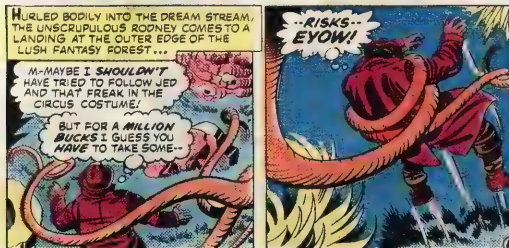
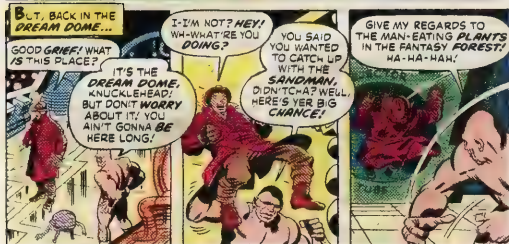
HELLO,
MR. BRUTE!
NICE TO
SEE YOU
TOO, **MR. GLOB!**

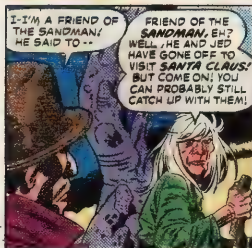
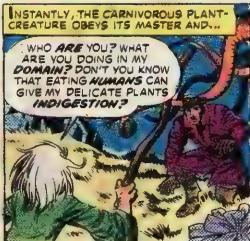
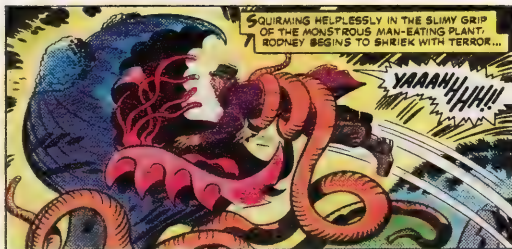


INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE DREAM MASTER AND HIS YOUNG AIDE ARE CATAPULTED INTO THE **DREAM STREAM**, THE EERIE TWILIGHT DIMENSION WHICH IS THE DWELLING PLACE OF ALL THE **HIDEOUS NIGHTMARE PHANTASMS**...









MEANWHILE, JED AND THE SANDMAN HAVE ARRIVED AT THEIR DESTINATION ...

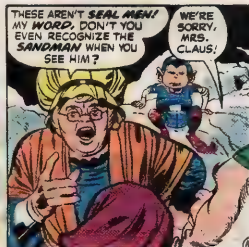
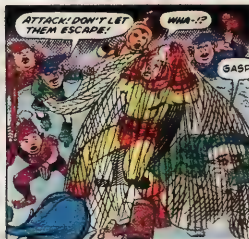
GOSH, SANDMAN! AM I **REALLY** GOING TO MEET **SANTA CLAUS** IN PERSON?

YOU SURE ARE! THAT'S HIS **WORK-SHOP** UP AHEAD!



AND WAIT TILL YOU MEET **SANTA'S ELVES**...

THEY'RE ALWAYS SO **WARM** AND **FRIENDLY**!

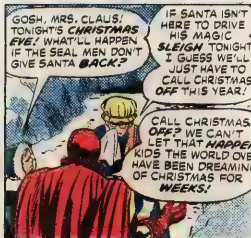




PLEASE ACCEPT MY
APOLOGIES, SANDMAN!
WE'VE ALL BEEN A LITTLE
EDGY EVER SINCE THE
SEAL MEN SNEAKED
DOWN HERE AND
KIDNAPPED **SANTA!**

WHAT? BUT, I THOUGHT
THE **SEAL MEN** HAVE AL-
WAYS BEEN **FRIENDLY!**

THEY
ALWAYS **HAVE**
BEEN UNTIL
NOW! I CAN'T
EXPLAIN IT! SANTA'S
REMEMBERED THEM
WITH **GIFTS** EVERY
SINGLE **CHRISTMAS!**



GOSH, MRS. CLAUS!
TONIGHT'S **CHRISTMAS**
EVE! WHAT'LL HAPPEN
IF THE **SEAL MEN** DON'T
GIVE SANTA **BACK?**

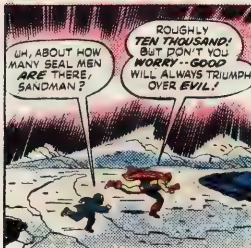
IF SANTA ISN'T
HERE TO DRIVE
HIS MAGIC
SLEIGH TONIGHT,
I GUESS WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
CALL **CHRISTMAS**
OFF THIS YEAR!

CALL **CHRISTMAS**
OFF? WE CAN'T
LET THAT **HAPPEN!**
KIDS THE WORLD OVER
HAVE BEEN DREAMING
OF **CHRISTMAS** FOR
WEEKS!



COME ON, JED! WE'VE GOT
TO RESCUE **SANTA CLAUS**
EVEN IF IT MEANS TAKING
ON **ALL** THE **SEAL MEN**
SINGLEHANDED!

I'M
RIGHT
WITH
YOU,
SANDMAN!



UH, ABOUT HOW
MANY **SEAL MEN**
ARE THERE,
SANDMAN?

ROUGHLY
TEN THOUSAND!
BUT DON'T YOU
WORRY--GOOD
WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH
OVER **EVIL!**



AN HOUR LATER...

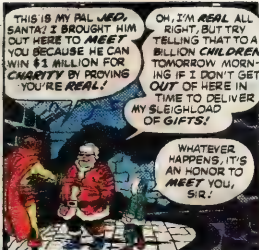
LOOK! ISN'T THAT
SANTA CLAUS, STANDING
ALONE IN THAT
CLEARING?

IT SURE
LOOKS LIKE
IT!



WHEN THE DREAM LORD AND HIS YOUNG APPRENTICE FINALLY REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...

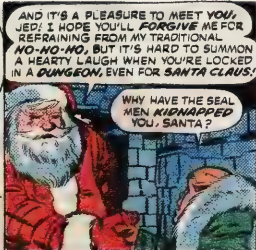




THIS IS MY PAL JED, SANTA! I BROUGHT HIM OUT HERE TO MEET YOU BECAUSE HE CAN WIN \$1 MILLION FOR CHARITY BY PROVING YOU'RE REAL!

OH, I'M *REAL* ALL RIGHT, BUT TRY TELLING THAT TO A BILLION CHILDREN TOMORROW MORNING IF I DON'T GET OUT OF HERE IN TIME TO DELIVER MY SLEIGHLOAD OF GIFTS!

WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, SIR!



WHY HAVE THE SEAL MEN KIDNAPPED YOU, SANTA?



I ONLY WISH I *KNEW*! I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS THE SEAL MEN'S FRIEND! BUT THIS YEAR, THEY SEEM DETERMINED TO SABOTAGE CHRISTMAS!

WELL, WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! STAND BACK-- I'M GOING TO USE MY HYPNO-SONIC WHISTLE!



LOOK SANTA, HE'S DOING IT--THE BARS ARE MELTING!

WHAT A TERRIFIC GADGET! I WISH I HAD ONE LIKE IT FOR WIDENING NARROW CHIMNEYS!



SOUND THE ALARM! QUICKLY! THE PRISONERS ARE ESCAPING!

WHA--?



LOOK OUT-- WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A GENIUS FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS, YOUNG FELLOW!

REMEMBER, WE'RE NOT JUST FIGHTING TO SAVE OURSELVES! WE'RE FIGHTING TO SAVE CHRISTMAS!



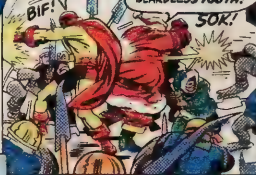
THE DREAM LORD AND HIS FRIENDS FIGHT LIKE VALIANT TIGERS AGAINST THE HORDE OF ONRUSHING SEAL MEN ...

YOU MAY BE GETTING OLD, SANTA, BUT YOU SURE DON'T FIGHT LIKE YOU'RE OLD!

ME? OLD? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! I'M ONLY SIXTEEN HUNDRED YEARS OLD! BARELY OUT OF MY BEARDLESS YOUTH!

BIF!

SOK!



BUT THE ODDS AGAINST THE CHAMPIONS OF CHRISTMAS ARE OVERWHELMING, AND ...

WE CAUGHT THE PRISONERS TRYING TO ESCAPE, SIRE!

RETURN THEM TO THE DUNGEONS! AND ONCE CHRISTMAS IS SAFELY PAST, RELEASE THEM!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!



WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU PEOPLE, ANYWAY? WHY ARE YOU SO DETERMINED TO SABOTAGE CHRISTMAS?

BECAUSE IF WE OF THE SEAL KINGDOM ARE GOING TO BE DENIED A

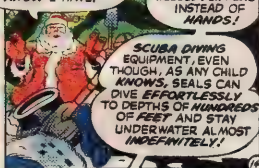
MERRY CHRISTMAS, WE'RE GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE ELSE ENJOYS ONE, EITHER!



BUT THAT'S **RIDICULOUS!** I'VE DELIVERED WHOLE CRATES OF GIFTS TO YOUR KINGDOM EVERY SINGLE YEAR! YOU KNOW I HAVE!

YES, AND JUST LOOK AT THEM! WOOLEN GLOVES, EVEN THOUGH SEAL MEN HAVE WEBBED FLIPPERS INSTEAD OF HANDS!

SCUBA DIVING EQUIPMENT, EVEN THOUGH, AS ANY CHILD KNOWS, SEALS CAN DIVE EFFORTLESSLY TO DEPTHS OF HUNDREDS OF FEET AND STAY UNDERWATER ALMOST INDEFINITELY!



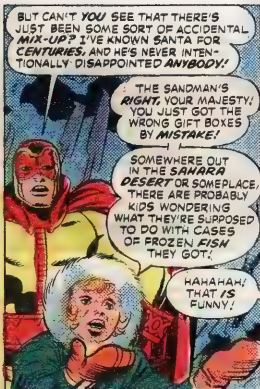


AND LOOK AT *THESE!*
WHOEVER HEARD OF A
SELF-RESPECTING SEAL
WEARING *GALOSHES?*
OR CATCHING *FISH*
WITH A *CASTING ROD?*

TEE HEE!

THIS IS NOT
A LAUGHING
MATTER!

NO, SIR,
WE CAN *SEE*
IT ISN'T!



BUT CAN'T *YOU* SEE THAT THERE'S
JUST BEEN SOME SORT OF ACCIDENTAL
MIX-UP? I'VE KNOWN *SANTA* FOR
CENTURIES, AND HE'S NEVER INTEN-
TIONALLY DISAPPOINTED *ANYBODY!*

THE SANDMAN'S
RIGHT, YOUR MAJESTY!
YOU JUST GOT THE
WRONG GIFT BOXES
BY *MISTAKE!*

SOMEWHERE OUT
IN THE *SAHARA*
DESERT OR SOMEPLACE,
THERE ARE PROBABLY
KIDS WONDERING
WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED
TO DO WITH CASES
OF *FROZEN FISH*
THEY GOT!

HAHAHAH!
THAT IS
FUNNY!



ALL RIGHT, YOU THREE! IF YOU'LL
PROMISE THAT THIS KIND OF THING
WILL NEVER HAPPEN *AGAIN*, I'LL
LET YOU GO!

I GIVE YOU MY
WORD, YOUR HIGH-
NESS! AND I'LL EVEN
SEE TO IT THAT MY
ELVES *EXCHANGE*
THOSE MISTAKEN
GIFTS FROM *PAST*
CHRISTMASES, I
PROMISE!

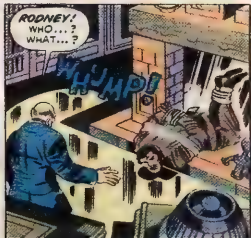
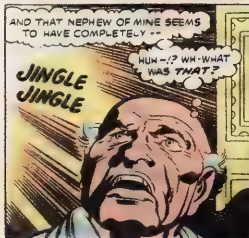
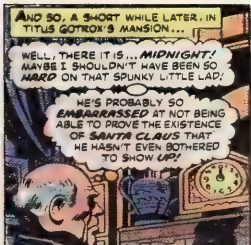
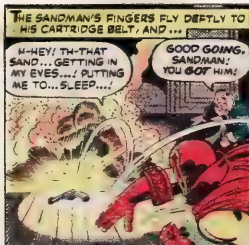


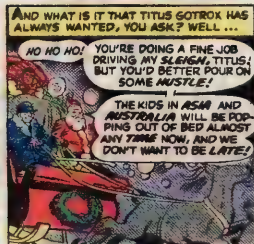
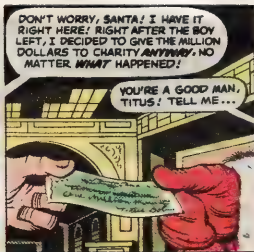
AND SO ...

HEY, *SANTA!* SLOW
DOWN! WHAT'S THE
HURRY?

SLOW DOWN?
DON'T YOU TWO
REALIZE WHAT
TIME IT IS? IF I
DON'T GET BACK
HOME AND HITCH MY
SLEIGH, ALL YOUR
EFFORTS TO *RESCUE*
ME WILL BE
COMPLETELY
WASTED!









...AND THE FORECAST IS FOR SNOW TO BEGIN THIS AFTERNOON WITH A POSSIBLE ACCUMULATION OF 18 INCHES!

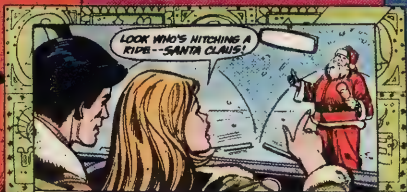
BLIZZARD WARNINGS HAVE BEEN POSTED FOR THE ENTIRE AREA ...



SURE HOPE THE HEAVY SNOW HOLDS OFF FOR A FEW HOURS, LORI! I'VE GOT TO CATCH A 6 O'CLOCK PLANE TO GOTHAM!

DON'T GET HUNG UP ON THE WEATHER, DICK!

IF I KNOW YOUR MILLIONAIRE "FATHER", BRUCE WAYNE, HE'LL BUY THE BLIZZARD AND SHIP IT TO ALASKA SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH HIM!



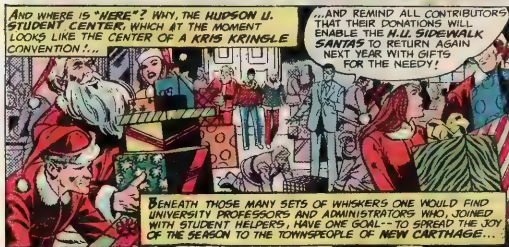
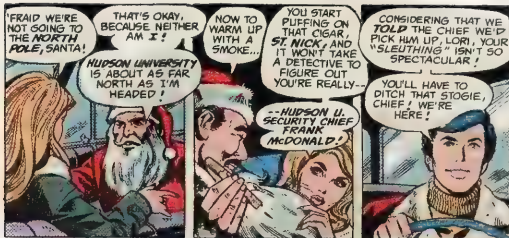
LOOK WHO'S NITCHING A RIDE--SANTA CLAUS!

CHRISTMAS EVE! --THERE'S A BLIZZARD ON THE WAY AND SANTA CLAUS IS OUT HITCHHIKING! BUT THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING OF...

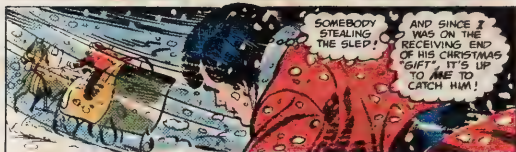
(VERY)

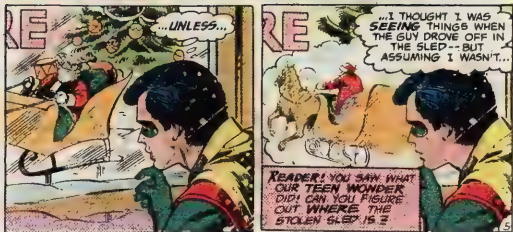
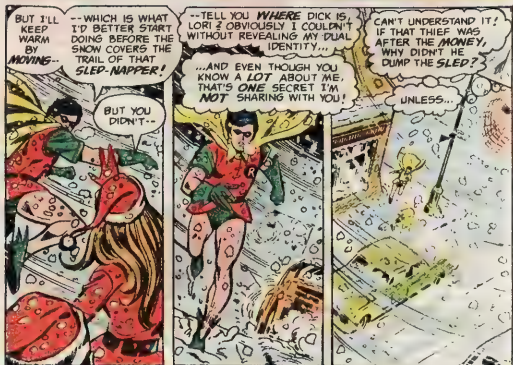
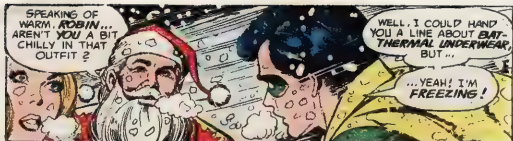
Robin's White Christmas!

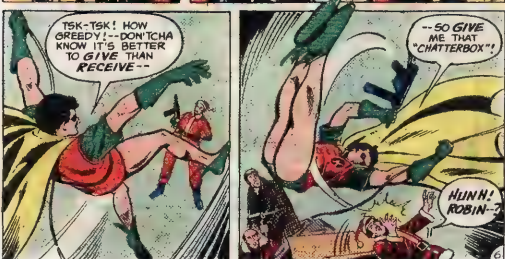
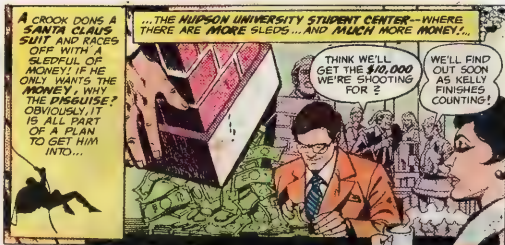
A HOLIDAY GREETING FROM
BOB ROZAKIS (WRITER)
JOSE DELBO and VINCE COLLETTA (ARTISTS)
STYLUS SCHWARTZ (EDITOR)













DON'T JUST
STAND THERE,
DUMMIES!
BLAST
HIM!



BUT HOW,
BOSS? HE'S
GONNA...

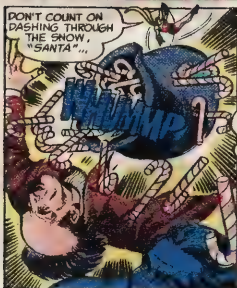


...DECK US ALL
WITH BOUGHS
OF HOLLY!
? LIVINGH!

THWACK!



STAY TOGETHER!
WE'LL FIGHT OUR
WAY OUTA HERE!

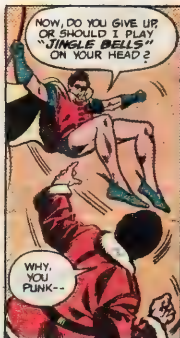


DON'T COUNT ON
DASHING THROUGH
THE SNOW,
"SANTA"...

THUMP!



...AT LEAST,
NOT WITH
YOUR
"HELPERS"!

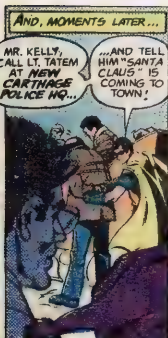


NOW, DO YOU GIVE UP,
OR SHOULD I PLAY
"JINGLE BELLS"
ON YOUR HEAD?

WHY,
YOU
PUNK--



GOD REST
YOU MERRY,
GENTLEMAN!



AND, MOMENTS LATER...

MR. KELLY,
CALL LT. TATEM
AT NEW
CARTHAGE
POLICE HQ...

...AND TELL
HIM "SANTA
CLAUS" IS
COMING TO
TOWN!



NINETY MINUTES LATER, WITH THE CHRISTMAS
CROOKS IN CUSTODY, IT IS A DISHEARTENED
DICK GRAYSON WHO RETURNS TO HUDSON U...

RICHARD
GRAYSON!
I'VE BEEN
WORRIED SICK!

WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN?

TRYING TO FIND A
WAY TO GET TO
GOTHAM CITY...
BUT THE ROADS
AND THE AIRPORT
ARE ALL
SNOWBOUND!

LOOKS LIKE I WON'T
BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS
WITH BRUCE AFTER
ALL!



OH, IT'S NOT *THAT* BAD!

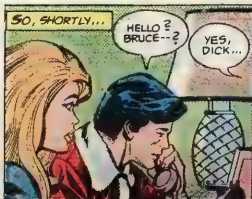
HHMM...
YEAH--

YOU CAN SPEND
IT WITH MY
FAMILY...AND
ME!



--THAT WON'T BE
HARD TO TAKE!

C'MON--WE'LL
STOP AT MY
ROOM AND PHONE
BRUCE TO TELL
HIM THE...UH...
SAD NEWS!



THIS MOST SPECIAL
ADVENTURE OF THE

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA

BEGINS NOT AS A CALL TO DANGER-- BUT AS AN
ERRAND OF MERCY-- AS THE WORLD'S FINEST
DUO-- SUPERMAN AND BATMAN-- RENDEZVOUS
TO-- BUT WE'LL LET YOU FIND OUT FOR
YOURSELF...



YOU READY YET,
SANTA? THOSE
ORPHANS WON'T
WAIT ALL EVENING,
YOU KNOW!

BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT,
SUPERMAN! I WANT THIS
OUTFIT TO LOOK EXACTLY
RIGHT--



WH-WHAT
HAPPENED?
MY HEAD
FEELS LIKE
SOMEONE'S
BEEN
DRIBBLING IT!

AN EXPLOSION--FROM
THE BEDROOM! MY
INVULNERABLE BODY
SHIELDED YOU FROM
MOST OF ITS EFFECTS!

AND SANTA--?
WHAT ABOUT
SANTA? HE
WAS IN THAT
ROOM!



SORRY, CHUM--
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO FOR
HIM!

SANTA
SIMPSON
IS DEAD!

AND IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER--I'D
SWEAR THE KEY
TO HIS KILLER IS
IN HIS HAND!

A KEY INDEED, BATMAN, BUT NO ORDINARY
KEY AS YOUR EXAMINATION WILL SHOW!

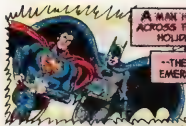
NO, THIS IS A CHALLENGE--AN INVITATION
THAT WILL SOON LEAD EARTH'S GREATEST
HEROES ALONG A TWISTING, TERROR-FRAUGHT
TRAIL IN PURSUIT OF...

The MAN WHO MURDERED SANTA CLAUS!



TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
A Christmas gift to you from me;
A very extra-special KEY!
Beneath the arch, it fits a LOCK
That, once it's turned, will save a block
Of cityfolk, both Mayor and bum,
From being blown to kingdom come.
So waste no time; don't hesitate!
This key will fit.
Though I admit,
I think you'll be TOO LATE!
Signed,
An Admirer!

A STARTLING SEASON'S GREETING CARD FROM: LEN WEIN - WRITER / DICK DALLIN & DICK GIORDANO - ARTISTS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - EDITOR - (WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO GREEN LANTERN FAN, DUFFY VONLAND.)



A MAN HAS DIED--THE GAUNTLET HAS BEEN THROWN--AND, THOUGH ACROSS THE WORLD THIS NIGHT, THE AIR IS ALIVE WITH JOYOUS TIRINGS AND HOLIDAY CHEER, IT IS NOW ALIVE WITH SOMETHING ELSE--

--THE CRACKLING ELECTRONIC WHISPER OF TWO JUSTICE LEAGUE EMERGENCY SIGNAL DEVICES BEING PUT TO URGENT USE--

--A SUPERSONIC IMPULSE THAT CIRCLES THE GLOBE WITH A CLARION CALL TO BATTLE...

BUT THOUGH THE CALL GOES OUT TO ALL--SOME ARE UNABLE TO ANSWER...

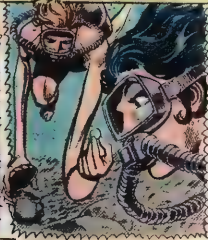
BARRY (FLASH) ALLEN, FOR EXAMPLE--SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS WITH HIS WIFE, IRIS, AND HER PARENTS--1000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE!



...OR RAY (ATOM) PALMER, WHO, TOTALLY INVOLVED IN THE EXPLORATION OF A SUB-MICROSCOPIC UNIVERSE, HAS LOST TRACK OF THE YULETIDE SEASON ON HIS OWN WORLD...



...WHILE RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) PINNY, SCUBA-DIVING WITH HIS WIFE SUE OFF THE CARIBBEAN COAST, WELL OUT OF REACH OF HIS JLA RECEIVER, SEEMINGLY HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THE SEASON AT ALL...



...NOR HAS AQUAMAN, KING OF ATLANTIS, AS HE PRESIDES OVER THAT UNDERSEA CITY'S SACRED FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS!



YET OTHERS WHO RECEIVE THE EMERGENCY SUMMONS ARE NOT SO DISTANTLY PREOCCUPIED...

JOHN (RED TORNADO) SMITH, ENJOYING A CASUAL STROLL THROUGH SNOW-DRAPEL CENTRAL PARK WITH HIS LADY FRIEND, KATHY SUTTON...

FORGIVE ME, KATHY--BUT I'VE JUST REMEMBERED AN EMERGENCY THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY!



OLIVER (GREEN ARROW) QUEEN AND HIS LADY FRIEND, DINAH (BLACK CANARY) LANCE, INTERRUPTED IN THE MIDST OF A MORE PERSONAL CELEBRATION...



...AND LASTLY HAL
(GREEN LANTERN)
JORDAN, CAUGHT IN
THE ACT OF PREPARING
FOR A CHRISTMAS
EVE DATE...

NEVER FAILS! STEP INTO
THE TUB--AND SOMEBODY'S
BOUND TO CALL--



--YOU--
OOOPPS!

CLUNK



THE CRUCIAL JLA
SIGNAL PERSISTS--
AND WHEN IT IS NOT
ANSWERED, THERE COMES
SILENT MOVEMENT
IN THE ROOM--

--AS A SELF-MOTIVATED
POWER RING BATHES
ITS OWNER IN EMERALD
LIGHT-- ASCERTAINS
THAT THE DAMAGE
DONE TO HIM IS MINOR--



--AND FAILING TO
ROUSE HIM, SURROUNDS
HIM WITH A HEALING
AURA--

-- THEN STREAKS OFF
INTO THE NIGHT!



COME WITH US NOW TO
A CERTAIN URBAN GHETTO--
AND WATCH THE REST OF
THIS SCENE RUN ITS
COURSE...

...SO THERE I'M STANDING
WITH THESE BUILDING
PLANS I'VE WORKED
MONTHS ON CLENCHED
IN MY HAND--

--AND THIS PIG-
HEADED IDIOT
SAYS TO ME...



WUHR!?

JOHN STEWART--
ALTERNATE
GREEN LANTERN
OF SPACE SECTOR
2814-- YOU ARE
NEEDED!



WAIT A MINNIT!
WHAT IF I
DON'T WANT
TO--

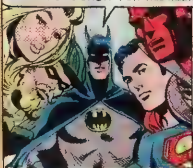
--GO?



THIS HAS THE SUMMONS BEEN SENT-- AND THE CLAN GATHERED-- BUT AS WE CAN SEE BY TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO A SATELLITE WHIRLING 22,300 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH--

--IT IS A DEPRESSINGLY SMALL CLAN, INDEED!

MIGHT AS WELL GET STARTED! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY MEMBERS WHO ARE GOING TO SHOW FOR THIS MEETING!



AND AS THE POWER RING EXPLAINS TO THE JLA ALL THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN...



...I'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED BY MY MASTER... WERE HE EVER TOO INCAPACITATED TO ANSWER YOUR SUMMONS...

...TO SECURE JOHN STEWART AND DELIVER HIM TO YOUR PRESENCE IN MY MASTER'S STEAD.

THERE'S THE WHOLE STORY, GANG--

THE GREEN LANTERN REGULARLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS TIME HAS HIMSELF ONE MONUMENTAL HEADACHE--

--AND YOU HAVE ME IN HIS PLACE!

WHAT A MISERABLE WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE!



PARDON MY ASKING, GREEN ARROW--BUT WHY IS THIS PARTICULAR EVENING DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER?

WHAT--? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'! CHRISTMAS EVE IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE...

AH--HOW DO YA EXPLAIN SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO... A DOGGONE MACHINE?



MY ARTIFICIAL ORIGINS HAVE IN NO WAY IMPAIRED MY CAPACITY FOR LEARNING, ARCHER!

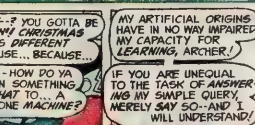
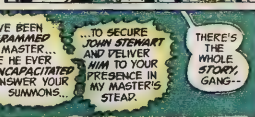
IF YOU ARE UNEQUAL TO THE TASK OF ANSWERING MY SIMPLE QUERY, MERELY SAY SO--AND I WILL UNDERSTAND!

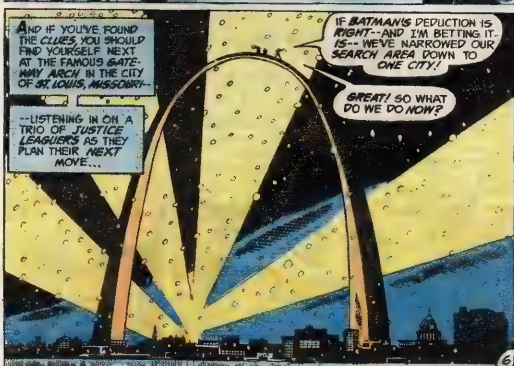
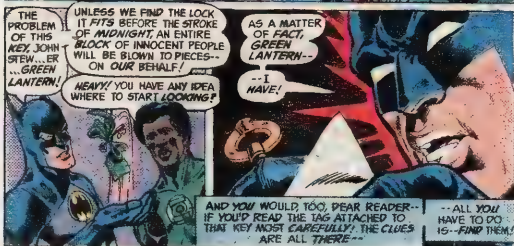
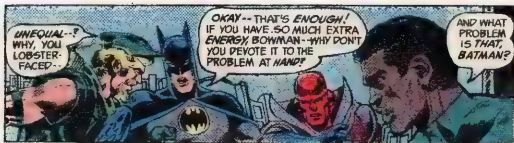


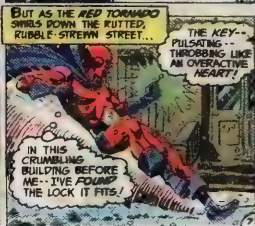
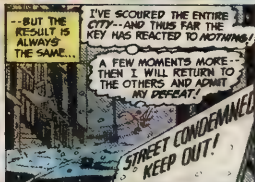
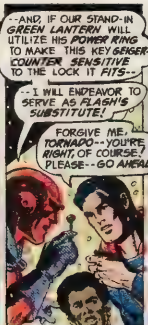
CLOSE, BROTHER-- YOU'D BETTER ADD GREEN LANTERN TO THE ROSTER OF THOSE PRESENT!



YOU MAY BE WEARING THE UNIFORM, FRIEND-- BUT YOU'RE NOT GREEN LANTERN!







AND BRIEF
MOMENTS
LATER...

IF I DIDN'T KNOW
BETTER, TORNADO--
I'D SWEAR YOU
WERE SMILING UNDER
THAT HELMET!

BUT
AS
THE
JUSTICE
LEAGUES
MOVE
TO
FOLLOW
THE
TORNADO'S
SUGGES-
TION...

SEASON'S
GREETINGS,
MISTER!
C'N YA SPARE
A QUARTER?

HOW
'BOUT
YOU,
BROTHER?
SPARE
SOME
CHANGE?

HUH?

PERHAPS,
SUPERMAN--FOR
I'VE FOUND THE
LOCK WE SEEK--

--AND I SUGGEST
WE MAKE USE
OF IT--QUICKLY!

YEAH--HOW
'BOUT YOU,
MISTER
GREEN LANTERN?
YOU BLACK,
TOO!

C'N YA
HELP A
BROTHER
MAKE IT
THROUGH
CHRISTMAS?

REALLY WISH I
COULD, LITTLE FELLA--
BUT THEY DON'T PUT
POCKETS IN THESE
OUTFITS!

LOOK, WHY DON'T I JUST
USE THE POWER RING TO
WHIP UP SOME... EH?

UH, UH, STEWART--I
DON'T THINK THE
GUARDIANS ALLOW THAT!

IF YOU REALLY
WANT TO HELP
THESE KIDS, YOU'LL
WISH 'EM A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HEAD INTO THAT
OLD HOUSE WITH THE
REST OF US--

WITH AN ALMOST SILENT CLICK,
THE KEY TURNS IN THE LOCK--
AND, CAUTIOUSLY, SIX COLOR-
FULLY-GARBED FIGURES
ENTER THE CRUMBLING TENEMENT--

--THEIR PROGRESS OBSERVED
BY TWO DARKLING EYES THAT
PEER COLDLY, EMOTIONLESSLY,
THROUGH THE GLOOM OF A
HIDDEN CONTROL ROOM...

--'CAUSE IF WE DON'T FIND THAT BOMB
BEFORE MIDNIGHT, THOSE KIDS--AND EVERY-
BODY ELSE STILL LIVING IN THIS SUMPHOLE--
WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE CHRISTMAS!

SORRY, LITTLE BROTHERS
--BUT THE MAN'S RIGHT!
MAYBE I CAN GIVE YOU
SOMETHING LATER!



WELCOME TO THE INNER CITY LADY AND GENTS! IF YOU THINK *THIS* JOINT IS BAD-- YOU SHOULD SEE SOME OF THE FILTH-HOLES I'VE HAD TO LIVE IN!



-- AFTER WE'VE LOCATED THE BOMB--



WE'RE-- FALLING--!

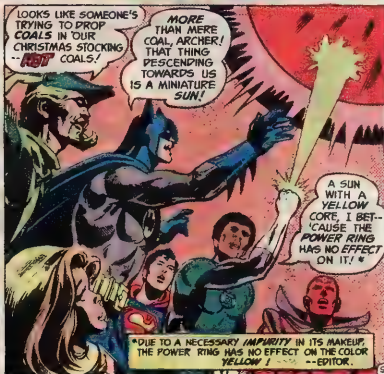
THUMP



ANY BONES BROKEN? EVERY-ONE ALL RIGHT?

SO FAR, I GUESS --BUT WE AIN'T GONNA STAY THAT WAY LONG!

LOOK UP THERE!



LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S TRYING TO PROP COALS IN OUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING --HBT COALS!

MORE THAN MERE COAL, ARCHER! THAT THING DESCENDING TOWARDS US IS A MINUTIAE SUN!

A SUN WITH A YELLOW CORE, I BET-- 'CAUSE THE POWER RING HAS NO EFFECT ON IT! *

*DUE TO A NECESSARY IMPURITY IN ITS MAKEUP, THE POWER RING HAS NO EFFECT ON THE COLOR YELLOW! --EDITOR.

MAYBE A YELLOW CORE... BUT ITS PRIMARY RADIATION IS THAT OF A RED SUN... WHICH SAPS MY SUPER-POWERS!

GOT TO TRY... TO DESTROY IT... BEFORE ITS TOO LATE...

I AT LEAST HAVE A CHANCE! IF ANY OF YOU OTHERS ATTEMPTED IT... IT WOULD BE SUICIDE...

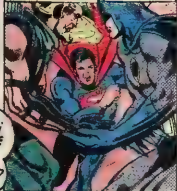
SUICIDE, MY EAR! WE CAN'T LET YOU--

AND MOMENTS LATER, A PAIN-WRACKED MAN OF STEEL RACES INTO ACTION...

...WITH EVERY STEP HE TAKES SEARING AGONY--

YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, SUPES? WITH-OUT YOUR SUPER-POWERS, THAT THING HAS YOU OUTMATCHED ALL THE WAY!

SHUT UP, ARCHER... AND LISTEN TO ME! WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT... I'M TRYING IT... AND I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP...



-- EVERY MOTION RACKING TORMENT--

-- BUT STILL HE CONTINUES-- FOR HE IS SUPERMAN--



-- AND HE WILL NEVER ADMIT DEFEAT!

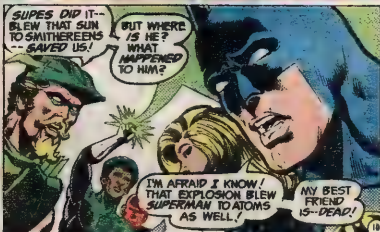
**BWARO
MM**

SUPES DID IT-- BLEW THAT SUN TO SMITHEREENS -- SAVED US!

BUT WHERE IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

I'M AFRAID I KNOW! THAT EXPLOSION BLEW SUPERMAN TO ATOMS AS WELL!

MY BEST FRIEND IS-- DEAD!



BUT BEFORE THE HEART-BROKEN HEROES
ARE LOST TO THEIR DEPRESSION...

OH, OLIVER-- I
CAN'T BELIEVE
HE'S GONE!

LOOK--
SOMETHING
OPENING
THE WALL--

--A PORTAL
OF SOME SORT!

THEN LET'S MAKE
USE OF IT! SUPERMAN
MAY BE GONE--

-- BUT OUR
MISSION
STILL
REMAINS!

INSTANTLY AFTER, AS THE FIFTH AND FINAL
JUSTICE LEAGUER STEPS ACROSS THE PORTAL...

THE DOORWAY--
IT'S SEALING
SHUT BEHIND
US!

AND WITH
GOOD
REASON.
BLACK
CANARY!

TAKE A
GLANCE
AT WHAT'S
AHEAD
OF US!

A CIRCUS CALLIOPE--
PLAYING ITS OWN
MUSIC-- AND SPEWING
OUT-- GAK!-- GAS!

IT'S-- GASP!-- CHOKING
ME-- AND THIS BLASTED
RING-- GAK!-- IS USELESS
AGAINST IT!

THE ROOM IS SEALED
SHUT-- NO WAY FOR MY
SUPER-WHIRLING TO
DISSIPATE THE POISONOUS
FUMES!

MY
COMPANIONS
ARE--
DOOMED!

CHOKE--
TORNADO'S
RIGHT!
WE'VE ALL
HAD IT
UNLESS...

IT'S A
LONG SHOT!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE
I STILL HAVE THE
POWER-- BUT IF
I CAN JUST HIT
THE RIGHT NOTE TO
COUNTER THE CALLIOPE'S SONG--

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY
MONTHS, THE LOVELY BLACK
CANARY THROWS BACK HER
HEAD-- AND SINGS--

I... I CAN
BREATHE
AGAIN...

--A SILENT ULTRASONIC MELODY
THAT FORCES THE CHOKING FUMES
AWAY FROM THE GASPING JLAERS.

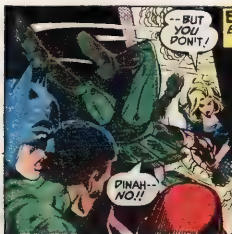
LOOK! ANOTHER
DOORWAY OPENING
IN THE WALL--!

THEN LET'S
GET OUTA
HERE!

C'MON, DINAH--
WE'VE GOTTA
MOVE FAST!

I CAN'T, OLLIE! MY
ULTRASONIC SONG IS
THE ONLY THING HOLDING
BACK THE GAS!

I HAVE
TO STAY--



--BUT
YOU
DON'T!

DINAH--
NO!!

EVEN AS HE STRIKES THE STEEL-HARD FLOOR, THE
EMERALD ARCHER IS WHIRLING, LUNGING TOWARD THE
ROOM BEHIND AND THE DARING GIRL HE LOVES--

--TOO
LATE!



DINAH!

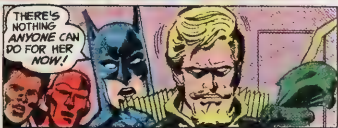


GOT TO GET
BACK IN--GOT
TO GET TO HER!

SHE NEEDS
ME! DINAH
NEEDS ME!

ARCHER!...OLIVER
...PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER! THE
DOOR IS
IMPENETRABLE!

THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN
DO FOR
THE
BLACK
CANARY!



THERE'S
NOTHING
ANYONE CAN
DO FOR HER
NOW!



WHILE ELSEWHERE, A
CERTAIN SHADY FIGURE
IS DOING PLENTY...

AS YOU HAVE OBSERVED,
SIR, TWO OF THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE HAVE NOW FALLEN
TO YOUR SUPERIOR
INGENUITY!

DO YOU WISH ME
TO CONTINUE?



CONTINUE? OF COURSE I WISH
YOU TO CONTINUE, KEY-MAN #1!

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO REST
UNTIL THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF
AMERICA IS DEAD--
OR I AM!

AND, MY FRIEND,
WHEN THE KEY
SLITHERS OFF THIS
MORTAL COIL, HE'S
TAKING AS MANY AS
HE CAN WITH HIM!

C'MON, GUYS-- WHAT'RE YA CRAWLING FOR?

THE SKUNK WHO MURDERED DINAH IS WAITING FOR US AT THE END OF THIS MAZE--AND NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM GETTING MY HANDS ON HIM AND--

IT IS FORTUNATE YOU SAID THAT, GREEN ARROW--FOR SOMETHING SURELY INTENDS TO TRY!

OBSERVE--!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES--?

GIANT GLOBES-- LIKE CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS --BOUNDED TOWARDS US--

--AND I DOUBT IF THEY'RE FRIENDLY!

WHATEVER YOU DO, MEN-- DON'T LET THOSE THINGS TOUCH YOU!

THAT IS SOMETHING THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES NEEDN'T BE TOLD--BUT AS THEIR UNIQUE ABILITIES ARE BROUGHT INTO PLAY AGAINST THE CAREENING GLOBES...

ORNAMENT--ABOUT TO HIT GREEN ARROW FROM BEHIND!

NO TIME TO USE SOMETHING FROM MY UTILITY BELT! ALL I HAVE TO DEFLECT THAT GLOBE IS--

AND IN THAT FROZEN INSTANT, BEFORE THE BATTLING BOWMAN'S STARTLED EYES...

--MYSELF!

HUH--?

THAT BALL--ABSORBING BATMAN INTO IT!

GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE HIM--

--TOO LATE! BATMAN'S GONE! I COULDN'T SAVE HIS LIFE, EITHER!

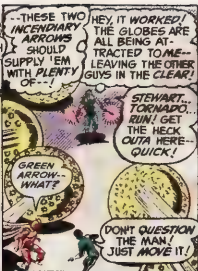
SHELVE IT! ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DOORWAYS OPENING UP ACROSS THE ROOM!

ALL WE GOTTA DO NOW IS-- GET TO IT!



NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, THOSE HUGE ORNAMENTS ARE TRACKING US THROUGH OUR BODY HEAT--

--AND IF IT'S HEAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR--



--THESE TWO INCENDIARY ARROWS SHOULD SUPPLY 'EM WITH PLENTY OF--!

HEY, IT WORKED! THE GLOBES ARE ALL BEING ATTRACTED TO ME-- LEAVING THE OTHER GUYS IN THE CLEAR!

STEWART... TORNADO... RUN! GET THE HECK OUTA HERE-- QUICK!

GREEN ARROW-- WHAT?

DON'T QUESTION THE MAN! JUST MOVE IT!



SWEET SISTER! THAT DUDE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE HUNGRY MOTHERS!

HE'S SACRIFICED HIMSELF-- FOR US!

THEN I SUGGEST WE ENDEAVOR TO MAKE OUR EFFORTS WORTHY OF GREEN ARROW'S SACRIFICE!



I'M WITH YOU, PAL--IF YOU SAID WHAT I THINK YOU SAID--

--BUT I DON'T THINK THAT TROOP OF TIN SOLDIERS SEES IT QUITE OUR WAY!

THEY'RE PREPARING TO ATTACK!



YEAH... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT-- SEEING AS HOW THEY'RE TRYING TO BLOW OUR HEADS OFF!

HEY-- THIS GLEAMING GIZMO'S FINALLY WORKING ON SOMETHING! IT'S--



BLAST! SPOKE TOO SOON! THOSE TOYS AREN'T ONLY SOLDIERS -- THEY'RE CHAMELEONS, TOO!

THEY'VE TRANSFORMED THEIR COLORS-- BECOME TOTALLY YELLOW-- SO THE RING NO LONGER AFFECTS THEM!



THEY'VE GROWN HEAVIER
AS WELL, GREEN LANTERN!
MY WHIRLWIND DOES NOT
DISPERSE THEM AS EASILY AS
BEFORE!

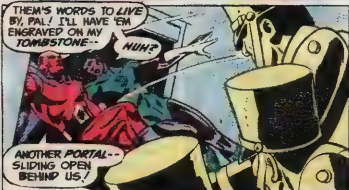
THAT KINDA NEWS
I'D RATHER NOT
HEAR, BROTHER--



--'CAUSE IF MY
RING AIN'T WORKING
AN' YOUR BREEZE
HAS BLOWN--

THEN,
MISTER,
WE
HAVE
JUST
ABOUT
HAD
IT!

DO NOT LOSE
CONFIDENCE, GREEN
LANTERN--THE
BATTLE IS NOT
LOST UNTIL YOU
CEASE TO FUNCTION
TOTALLY!



THEM'S WORDS TO LIVE
BY, PAL! I'LL HAVE 'EM
ENGRAVED ON MY
TOMBSTONE--

HUH?

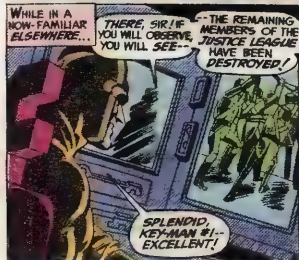
ANOTHER PORTAL--
SLIDING OPEN
BEHIND US!

IT TAKES ONLY AN INSTANT FOR THE TWO
STARTLED HEROES TO TUMBLE THROUGH
THE UNEXPECTED OPENING, THEN...

IT'S SLIDING SHUT
AFTER US AGAIN--
CUTTING US OFF FROM
THE MARCH OF THOSE
WEIRDO SOLDIERS--

-- BUT WHY?
THEY HAD US!
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

NOR DO I, GREEN LANTERN!
--BUT PERHAPS THE ANSWERS
AWAIT US AT THIS DARKENED
TUNNEL'S END!

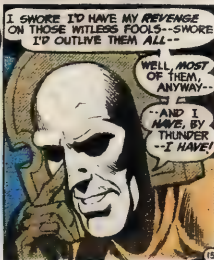


WHILE IN A
NOW-FAMILIAR
ELSEWHERE...

THERE, SIR! IF
YOU WILL OBSERVE,
YOU WILL SEE--

--THE REMAINING
MEMBERS OF THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE
HAVE BEEN
DESTROYED!

SPLENDID,
KEY-MAN #1--
EXCELLENT!



I SWORE I'D HAVE MY REVENGE
ON THOSE WITLESS FOOLS--SWORE
I'D OUTLIVE THEM ALL--

WELL, MOST
OF THEM,
ANYWAY--

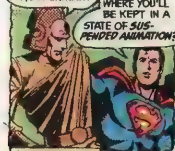
--AND I
HAVE, BY
THUNDER
--I HAVE!



"THE ARROGANT BOYS
--THEY REALLY THOUGHT
THEY'D TAKEN CARE OF
ME FOR GOOD WHEN
LAST WE MET..."

I'LL FIND A WAY TO
ESCAPE NO MATTER
WHERE YOU PUT
ME, SUPERMAN!

REALLY? EVEN
FROM MY
FORTRESS
OF SOLITUDE--
WHERE YOU'LL
BE KEPT IN A
STATE OF SUS-
PENDED ANIMATION?



"I WOULDN'T
LAST OUT THE
YEAR, THE DOCTOR
SAID. I
MIGHT MAKE
IT THROUGH
CHRISTMAS--
BUT I'D NEVER
SEE ANOTHER
NEW YEAR..."

"THEY MIGHT HAVE INDEED BEEN
RIP OF ME THEN--HAD NOT
SUPERMAN'S SUGGESTION
BEEN RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL
BY A TOO-LENIENT JUDGE..."

"INSTEAD I WAS SENTENCED
TO TWENTY YEARS-TO-LIFE..."



"UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I
WAS PAROLED FROM PRISON--
TO CAREFULLY PLOT MY VENGEANCE..."



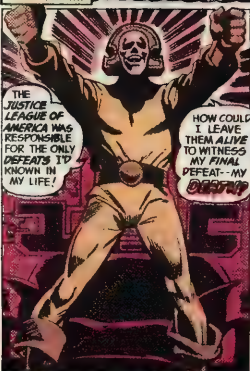
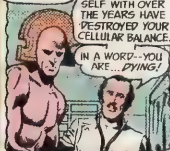
"...BUT AS IT
TURNED OUT,
LIFE WAS THE
SHORTER OF
THE TWO
EXTREMES..."

I'M SORRY...
BUT THERE IS
NO DOUBT...

"FOR A ROUTINE
EXAMINATION
BY A PRISON
DOCTOR
REVEALED..."

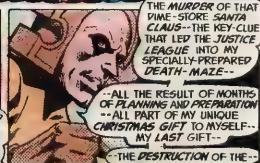
--THE VARIOUS
PSYCHO-CHEMI-
CALS YOU'VE
INJECTED YOUR-
SELF WITH OVER
THE YEARS HAVE
DESTROYED YOUR
CELLULAR BALANCE!

IN A WORD--YOU
ARE... DYING!



THE
JUSTICE
LEAGUE OF
AMERICA WAS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ONLY
DEFEATS I'D
KNOWN IN
MY LIFE!

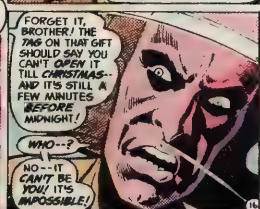
HOW COULD
I LEAVE
THEM ALIVE
TO WITNESS
MY FINAL
DEFEAT--MY
DEATH!



THE MURDER OF THAT
DIME-STORE SANTA
CLAUS--THE KEY-CLUE
THAT LED THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE INTO MY
SPECIALLY-PREPARED
DEATH-MAZE--

--ALL THE RESULT OF MONTHS
OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION
--ALL PART OF MY UNIQUE
CHRISTMAS GIFT TO MYSELF--
MY LAST GIFT--

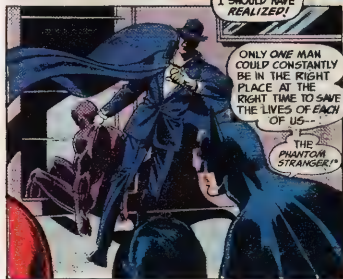
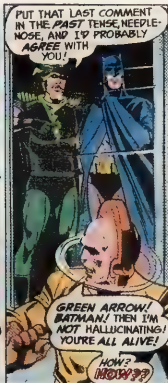
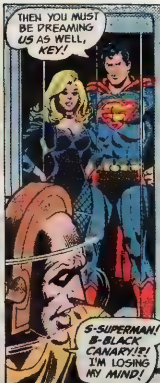
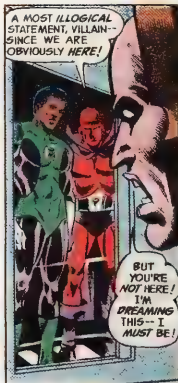
--THE DESTRUCTION OF THE--

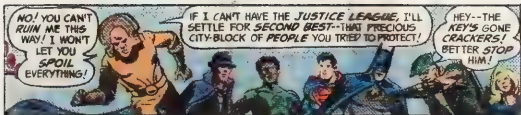


FORGET IT,
BROTHER! THE
TAG ON THAT GIFT
SHOULD SAY YOU
CAN'T OPEN IT
TILL CHRISTMAS--
AND IT'S STILL A
FEW MINUTES
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!

WHO--?

NO--IT
CAN'T BE
YOU! IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

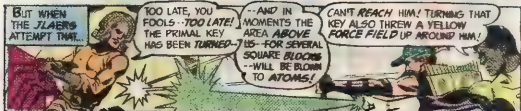




NO! YOU CAN'T RUIN ME THIS WAY! I WON'T LET YOU SPOIL EVERYTHING!

IF I CAN'T HAVE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, I'LL SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST--THAT PRECIOUS CITY-BLOCK OF PEOPLE YOU TRIED TO PROTECT!

HEY--THE KEY'S GONE CRACKERS! BETTER STOP HIM!

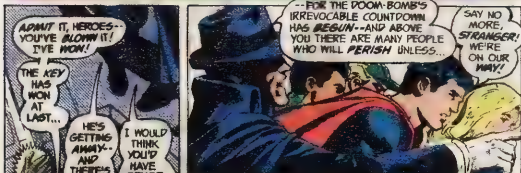


BUT WHEN THE JLAERS ATTEMPT THAT...

TOO LATE, YOU FOOLS--TOO LATE! THE PRIMAL KEY HAS BEEN TURNED--

--AND IN MOMENTS THE AREA ABOVE US--FOR SEVERAL SQUARE BLOCKS--WILL BE BLOWN TO ATOMS!

CAN'T REACH HIM! TURNING THAT KEY ALSO THREW A YELLOW FORCE FIELD UP AROUND HIM!



ADMIT IT, HEROES--YOU'VE BLOWN IT! I'VE WON!

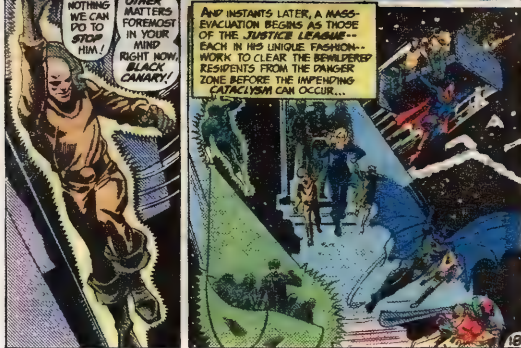
THE KEY HAS WON AT LAST...

HE'S GETTING AWAY--AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP HIM!

I WOULD THINK YOU'D HAVE OTHER MATTERS FOREMOST IN YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW, BLACK CANARY!

--FOR THE DOOM-BOMB'S IRREVOCABLE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN--AND ABOVE YOU THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL PERISH UNLESS...

SAY NO MORE, STRANGER! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!



AND INSTANTS LATER, A MASS-EVACUATION BEGINS AS THOSE OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--EACH IN HIS UNIQUE FASHION--WORK TO CLEAR THE BEWILDERED RESIDENTS FROM THE DANGER ZONE BEFORE THE IMPENDING CATAclySM CAN OCCUR...

AND, AT
LAST...

ONLY A FEW MORE SECONDS
TILL THE KEY'S BOOBY-
TRAP WIPES THIS WHOLE
MISERABLE NEIGHBORHOOD
OFF THE MAP! THE JUSTICE
LEAGUERS HAVE SAVED ALL
THE LOCAL RESIDENTS--

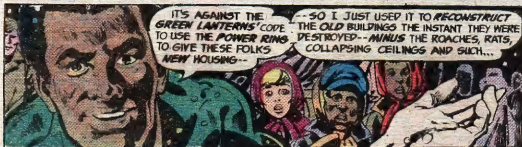
-- SO I GUESS IT'S UP TO
ME TO SAVE THE REST OF
TOWN FROM THE SHOCK-
WAVE THAT WILL RESULT
WHEN THE BOMB GOES...



WHEN THE SMOKE
OF THE ERUPTION
HAS CLEARED...

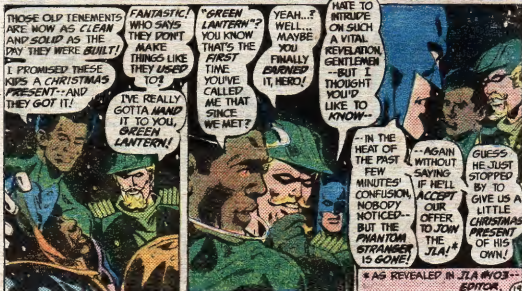
HA! THOSE
BUILDINGS
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN
DESTROYED
BY THE
EXPLOSION--
BUT LOOKING
AT 'EM NOW,
I'D SWEAR
THEY'D JUST
BEEN
BUILT!

THEY
WERE,
ARCHER!



IT'S AGAINST THE
GREEN LANTERNS' CODE
TO USE THE POWER RING
TO GIVE THESE FOLKS
NEW HOUSING--

-- SO I JUST USED IT TO RECONSTRUCT
THE OLD BUILDINGS THE INSTANT THEY WERE
DESTROYED-- MINUS THE ROACHES, RATS,
COLLAPSING CEILINGS AND SUCH...



THOSE OLD TENEMENTS
ARE NOW AS CLEAN
AND SOLID AS THE
DAY THEY WERE BUILT!

I PROMISED THESE
KIDS A CHRISTMAS
PRESENT--AND
THEY GOT IT!

FANTASTIC!
WHO SAYS
THEY DON'T
MAKE
THINGS LIKE
THEY USED
TO?

I'VE REALLY
GOTTA HAND
IT TO YOU,
GREEN
LANTERN!

"GREEN
LANTERN"?
YOU KNOW
THAT'S THE
FIRST
TIME
YOU'VE
CALLED
ME THAT
SINCE
WE MET?

YEAH...?
WELL...
MAYBE
YOU
FINALLY
BURNED
IT, HERO!

HATE TO
INTRUDE
ON SUCH
A VITAL
REVELATION,
GENTLEMEN
--BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
LIKE TO
KNOW--

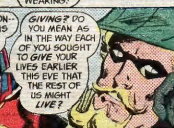
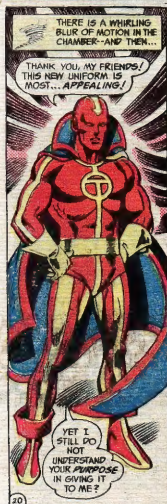
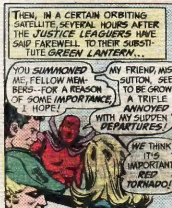
-- IN THE
HEAT OF
THE PAST
FEW
MINUTES'
CONFUSION,
NOBODY
NOTICED--
BUT THE
PHANTOM
STRANGER
IS GONE!

-- AGAIN
WITHOUT
SAYING
IF HE'LL
ACCEPT
OUR
OFFER
TO JOIN
THE JLA! *

GUESS
HE JUST
STOPPED
BY TO
GIVE US A
LITTLE
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT
OF HIS
OWN!

* AS REVEALED IN JLA #103--
EDITOR. 14

EPILOGUE



ANOTHER
DYNAMITE **C**OMIC
FROM THE HOUSE OF
DARING **C**ONCEPTS!



from
**DYNAMIC
CREATORS**

**ROY THOMAS
SCOTT SHAW!
GERRY CONWAY**

WITH AN ABLE
ASSIST FROM
**BOB SMITH &
ROSS ANDRU**

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ISSUE**
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